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*Eliza Binyon*  
1799

THE  
STAGE COACH:

CONTAINING  
THE CHARACTER  
Of MR. MANLY,

AND THE  
History of his FELLOW TRAVELLERS.

By a LADY of COLCHESTER,  
AUTHOR of the BROTHERS, &c.

A new EDITION, in THREE VOLS.

VOL. II.

Our outward act is prompted from within;  
And from the sinner's mind proceeds the sin:  
By her own choice free virtue is approv'd;  
Nor by the force of outward objects mov'd:  
Who has assay'd no danger, gains no praise:  
In a small Isle amidst the widest seas,  
'Triumphant constancy has fix'd her seat;  
In vain the Syrens sing, the tempest beat:  
Their Flatt'ry she rejects, nor fears their threat.

PRIOR's *Henry and Emma*:

L O N D O N:

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THE  
STAGE COACH.

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CHAP. I.

*Troubles arise to Miss Murrells.*

MISS Murrells passed a week with her mistress, when finding her very indulgent, and that she had a prospect of living to her satisfaction, she told nurse, who began to grow weary of the town, she would no longer detain her from her  
VOL. II. B family;

family; so after taking an affectionate and melancholy farewell of her dear child, (as she continued to call her) she sat out for the north.

During the time Miss Murrells had been with her mistress, she had seen no company but Mr. Lee and a lady, who had made her a morning visit; but the evening nurse set out on her journey, being ordered to attend her lady in the dining room, she found Lord Courtall in conference with her; upon which she ran directly down stairs, and sent the footman to tell Mrs. Durant, she begged leave to speak to her.

This message brought her lady, who appeared very angry, and rebuked her for not attending her when she was summoned, and giving her the trouble of coming down stairs. Miss Murrells asked pardon for her behaviour, but told her the occasion of



it, giving her a short account of the reasons she had to avoid Lord Courtall's presence; and desiring she would not insist upon her waiting whilst he staid. Her mistress replied, "I have too many obligations to this nobleman and his family, to dare to forbid him my house upon a servant's account; however, I will excuse your attendance to-day, till he is gone." This reply made Miss Murrells tolerably easy; and she heard his lordship with pleasure order his chair.

As soon as she saw the chair move off, she ventured up stairs when her mistress rang, and waited upon her at supper, when the old lady sent her into her bed-chamber to fetch her night dress; upon opening the door, her candle blew out, and she was returning to light it, when she found herself forcibly withheld by a man, who attempted to oppose her passage; alarmed at this, she gave a violent scream, which brought her

Be

mistress

## 4 THE STAGE COACH.

mistress out of the dining-room, with a candle, and discovered the person she was struggling with, to be the so much dreaded lord.

Mrs. Durant, instead of compassionating her distress, advised her not to make such an uproar and disturb the neighbourhood; for, if she did, she had effectual means to silence her: "I miss," continued she, "a pair of silver tea tongs, and I suppose you have them about you; so you had best suffer me quickly to search your pockets, or I shall send for a constable, who shall convey you to a more disagreeable lodging."

Miss Murrells burst into tears, and declaring her innocence, said she would not agree to any such thing; but was ready to go with a constable any where out of that house, for she perceived there was a detestable

able plot against her, and she would alarm the street.

His lordship begged her not to expose herself in that manner, assured her he would use no forcible methods, to bring her to accord to his wishes; but desired she would permit him to make a proposal to her in the presence of the old lady, and hoped she would be able to clear herself of her suspicion; for he owned he never should have imagined she would have given any cause for such a one.

This speech encreased the young lady's wrath; but reflecting, that she was too much in his power to vent it; she demanded what his intentions were, in secreting himself in that house; he replied—

“ To detect a little thief, who under pretence of virtue and stuff, has rejected the offers of a man of quality, and listened to the proposals of an old fellow, one

Manly: you see, Bell, I am no stranger to all your transactions; yet ungrateful as your behaviour to me has been, and notwithstanding this blemish cast upon your reputation by Mrs. Durant, I have still so much affection for you, that instead of leading a life of servitude, you shall be mistress of any house you please to pitch upon, either in town or country; and be attended by your own servants, with an annuity constantly paid of 400*l.* a year, upon very easy terms; sure you cannot but deem them so, when they are only to be the mistress of a man of quality, and to live independant."

Miss Murrells remained in tears, when the old woman said, "I find the girl has too much pride to acknowledge an obligation; consider, child, what must become of you, a poor friendless creature, destitute of money, if you reject his lordship's kind offer: and I fancy your champion Manly, will scarcely redeem you from prison, whither

ther I am determined to send you, on account of the tea-tongs."

At this, Miss Murrells roused herself from the stupefaction which seemed to have seized her senses, and declared the utmost abhorrence for his lordship's vile proposals; and as to the infamous aspersions her mistress cast upon her, she appealed to Heaven for her innocence.

Mrs. Durant said, to prove that, she must suffer her portmanteau to be searched in presence of my lord. This she resolutely refused; but said if Mr. Lea might be sent for, she should make no scruple to deliver up the key to him. Upon which a servant was dispatched for him; and his lordship telling her, he hoped she would be cleared; and recommending to her cooler consideration, the offer he had made her, left the house."

His lordship was but just gone when Mr. Lea entered, and observing Miss Mur-



rells's confusion, begged to know the occasion of it; her mistress replied, "Poor wretch! she has occasion enough to be confounded; I little thought a gentleman of your character would have recommended a thief to me."

"A thief! madam, you astonish me! What could induce you to harbour such a thought?"

"O sir!" said Miss Murrells, "do not give ear to the cruel insinuations of that wicked woman; but if you are not as abandoned as the wretches who have conspired my ruin, take me out of this vile company."

"Very pretty, truly!" said her mistress, "you must be very cautious about the virtue you make such a rout about, to offer yourself to a gentleman so little known to you; but this scheme will not take with him."

him. Come, if you have a mind to clear yourself, let your portmanteau be brought and searched."

"No, it shall not be removed," answered Miss Murrells, "but if Mr. Lee and you will attend me to the place where it stands, you are welcome to search it; for I am amongst a dangerous set of people, and I assure you I would not trust you with it alone."

"Marry, come up!" said Mrs. Durant, "servants are come to a fine pass! However, I'll humour the saucy minx: if you please, sir," turning to the gentleman, "to follow us."

Miss Murrells then gave Mr. Lee the key; which he delivered to the old woman, who immediately began rummaging, and discovered the lost tongs.

No one can express the astonishment of Miss Murrells upon her producing them, who still persisted in affirming she had no knowledge of how they came there. The gentleman, with the utmost consternation in his countenance, declared he was deceived by Miss Moody's recommendation, into a good opinion of the delinquent; but as he had now received a plain demonstration of her guilt, he could only beg Mrs. Durant's pardon, for introducing such a person into her family; "Yet, madam," continued he, "in consideration of the regard I bear to Miss Moody, who I am certain was ignorant of the young woman's real character, I must intreat you to be merciful to her; it is very probable, this detection may deter her from other crimes of the like nature." Turning to Miss Murrells—"Child," said he, "I would advise you to fall on your knees, and implore your lady's pardon; and I hope she will  
not



not deliver you into the hands of justice for this fact."

"I am innocent of it," replied she, the tears streaming from her eyes, "and except you are an accomplice with that vile lord, and this abandoned woman, you must perceive that I am grossly injured, and that this scheme was concerted between them, to force me to a compliance with a proposal that tends to my utter ruin."

"Pho! pho! child," replied he, "do you imagine I am so ignorant of the artifices of such a woman, as your conduct proves you to be, to regard the censures you cast upon his lordship and this good lady; but since I have been drawn in, to offer you my assistance, and you appeal to me, I desire I may hear the grievance you complain of."

She answered, " I have great reason to be concerned that ever I applied to you, sir, as I find your behaviour very contrary to what I had reason to expect, from the account of a deserving young lady, whom I heartily pity; but, that you may not plead ignorance of the state you have put me into, if you have no inclination to aid oppressed virtue, I will acquaint you with the reasons I have for what I have asserted." She then gave him a full account of Lord Courtall's former behaviour, and present proposition; adding, " The tongs were never missed, or mentioned, till he appeared."

" Well, madam," said the gentleman, " I must be so free as to tell you, (considering your circumstances) I can perceive but one reason for your refusing to oblige my lord; a pretence of virtue can never gain credit, after you have been detected in felony: therefore, if you have not imprudently

prudently consigned your person to Mr. Manly, I can see no reasonable objection against accepting his lordship's generous offer, which proves the violence of his passion; and I must think exceeds any thing you could possibly expect to make of your person."

This unexpected speech had such an effect upon the poor friendless young lady, that she fainted away, and Mr. Lee ran down stairs to send a servant with water to her. It was some time before Mrs. Durrant and her maid were able to recover her; and at her return to her senses, she fell into inexpressible agonies, and vented many piercing exclamations against the cruelty of her persecutors. Her mistress ordered the servant to see her safe to bed; but she would not suffer her to attempt undressing her, till she had extorted a solemn oath from the old woman, that Lord Courtall was not in the house; [and hav-

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ing received a positive assurance that he was not, she went to bed, and passed that night in imploring the assistance of the only Power who could relieve her present distress.

## CHAP.

## C H A P. II.

*Miss Murrells in as bad a Situation  
as the Former.*

**I**N the morning early Mrs. Durant approached Miss Murrells's bed, saying "Sure no man was ever so infatuated by love as my Lord Courtall: he is so concerned for the uneasiness you were under last night, that he has sent already to enquire how you rested; and has the goodness to intercede for you to me who you have injured: he begs so earnestly that I would pass over your fault, and not make a public example of you, that I cannot find in my heart to deny his request; but have promised to forgive you, and come to tell you, that you may be easy upon that head, for I shall not turn you out: and moreover, his Lordship will engage

not to enter these doors till you have the gratitude to desire to return him thanks."

"I owe none to him, nor have I any desire to continue in your service, which I intend to quit thisday. I know the dangers to which I may be exposed, cannot be greater than those I fly from: and I doubt not but I shall be protected, destitute as I am of every good but what he would deprive me of: a conscience void of ill is a much more powerful support than all the wealth I might acquire by wounding it. As to your menaces of imprisonment, I am under no obligation to my lord or you, for suspending the execution of them, since you both know I am entirely innocent of the facts with which you charge me."

"What proof can you bring of that? your oath will be of little service in a court  
of



of justice against Mr. Lee's and mine, who found the goods in your possession.

“ Well, ma'am, the consciousness of my own integrity is such, that if you are base enough to put your scheme in execution, I am ready to attend your officers to a justice of the peace, and should really prefer any prison to your house.”

“ Since you obstinately persist in your wicked aspersions of me, I must tell you Bell, I will not suffer you to quit this house. !Our agreement was a month's warning on either side; and I will oblige you to perform your engagement.”

“ Then ma'am, I give you warning now; and it is a matter of indifference to me whether I pass the dreadful interval with you, or amongst the wretches in any other prison.”

“ Upon

“ Upon this Mrs. Durant left the room and her distressed servant to contemplate her deplorable situation. She had now given over all hopes of assistance from Mr. Lee, who she plainly perceived was in Lord Courtall’s interest.

Then Mr. Manly’s obliging tenders of service came into her mind, and inclined her to acquaint him with the persecution she was under; for the hints which she had received from his lordship, Mr. Lee and her mistress concerning her attachment to that gentleman, very well accounted for the censures passed upon him by the old woman in her journey, and gave her reason to think they were apprehensive she would throw herself into his protection. But, how to apply to him she knew not, as she had overheard her mistress give orders to the other servants to keep the street door constantly locked, and to receive no letter from the  
hands



hands of Bell. However, she determined to watch every opportunity; and, if it were possible, by day or night, to make her escape, and find out Mr. Manly, whose address she sewed into the lining of her stays, lest the wretches should search for papers.

She now rose, and examined her trunk to see by what means the tongs could be conveyed into it; when finding the lock no way disordered, it appeared a mystery to her, as she never missed the key. She remained ten days like a prisoner, never being permitted to stir out of her mistress's sight; she constantly obliged her to sit down with her at table, and to sleep in a field bed, in a closet within her own chamber. Mrs. Durant was perpetually enforcing Lord Courtall's suit; but in vain; neither threats or blandishments could induce Miss Murrells to hearken to it, who took every opportunity of express-  
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ing her detestation of so infamous a proposition.

In this time, having her mistress's chamber to put in order, she found a pair of pockets, which she threw into a chest, amongst dirty cloaths, and perceiving they sounded as if something remained in them, took them out again, and found a key, which appeared so like that of her portmanteau, that she immediately applied it to the lock; and finding it exactly fitted it, was no longer at a loss to account for the conveyance of the tongs. This she secured, in hopes it might be a means of clearing her, if she was brought into any trouble about this affair. Her mistress being called out the next day, she was very vigilant in endeavouring to make her escape: but though she went frequently into the entry for that purpose, she always found the cook-maid, or footman, upon guard. Vexed at this, and

afraid

afraid to offer them any bribe, she thought it more prudent to conceal her dislike of the place from the servants, and try to sift out what she could from their conversation concerning her mistress and Mr. Lee.

The maid appeared quite an ignorant creature, and said, she had lived but a little while with madam, and always kept in the kitchen; that she knew none of her ways, nor any thing of her comers and goers.

The footman seemed too cunning a fellow for her to make any enquiries in his hearing: but upon the noise of a mob in the street, being in the entry with him, she asked him to open the door, and enquire into the cause of the bustle they heard.

“ The fellow replied, “ No, no, Mrs. Bell, I thank you for that; I know my orders

orders better." Her design was to have ran out of the house at all hazards, if he would have complied with her request; when finding her intentions defeated, she was greatly chagrined, and retired to the dining room, which Mrs. Durant entered soon after; and said, she had been to attend her good friend Lord Courtall, who had once more commissioned her to renew his proposals, and to offer the addition of an hundred pounds a year to the sum he had before mentioned.

Miss Murrells replied, "A million should not bribe me to consent: and I require no other reparation for the injuries offered to my reputation and person, but liberty to depart this house."

"Asto that, Bell, I have told you my mind, and am resolved you shall serve your time here, or in prison. My lord will

will be with you this evening; and being wearied with attending upon your humour, is come to a determination, if you will not comply with his desire, to be no bar to the prosecution which I will immediately commence against you for felony. So consider of it; for you shall either pass this night with him, or in prison."

"At the conclusion of this speech an heavy trampling was heard upon the stairs; and presently after a loud rap at the dining room door, which Mrs. Durant opened, and discovered to Miss Murrells a rough stern fellow with a constable's staff in his hand, who asked, in a surly tone, if she wanted a spice of his office?

Mrs. Durant answered, "You may go down into the kitchen till I ring." Then addressing Miss Murrells, who though she assumed all the courage she  
was

was able, was so frightened at the sight of this fellow, that she could not restrain her tears. “ You may perceive, child, I am in earnest: you must either resolve to meet his lordship, or a justice, and that in half an hour, for I will wait no longer.”

The afflicted young lady was unable to reply for some minutes: at last summoning all her courage, let me go then with that man, I have great reason to dread the presence of my lord, but none to fear justice.”

“ And is this your final resolution?

“ It is indeed, and not all the power of your master and his agents, shall be able to change it.”

Upon this Mrs. Durant called up the constable; and upon producing his warrant, Mr. Lee made his appearance, and ordered him to withdraw till he had had  
some



some conference with Miss Murrells; to whom he used the same arguments her mistress had done, to induce her to accept the other alternative; but she remained inflexible in her resolution; and suffered herself to be put into a coach, accompanied by Mrs. Durant, Mr. Lee, and the constable, the latter of which gave the coachman orders aloud, to drive to the house of Justice Lawrence.

It is impossible to describe the state of the young lady's mind at this juncture; who, though she preferred a removal to any place to a continuance with Mrs. Durant, could not help being exceedingly terrified at the thoughts of appearing before a court of judicature, as a criminal.

## C H A P. III.

*An Examination and the Result.*

**A** Solemn silence prevailed in the coach which conveyed Miss Murrells, until the driver, taking too short a compass in turning a corner, over-set it just by a tavern, into which a gentleman, who was passing the street, entered, and called the people to the assistance of the distressed persons, whose situation he immediately enquired into, and found the old woman's shrieks were occasioned by a broken leg; and the oaths and imprecations of the men proceeded from the wounds they had received; the constable having a violent contusion in his head, and the other's wrist being doubled in the fall, the blood and bones appeared on the outside; the young lady having luckily only a slight scratch on her arm, was pouring forth



forth thanks to Heaven for her preservation, when they were all conveyed into the tavern, and a surgeon sent for.

The coachman was examined concerning the place whither he was conveying his fare; and replied, to a bagnio in ————street; which information gave the enquirer no favourable opinion of the young woman and her companions. However, being a person of great humanity and skilled in physic, he attended the surgeon in his applications.

Mrs. Durant and the men were in too great an agony from the pain of their wounds to regard the safety of their charge, who perceiving they were not in a condition to prevent her escape, was endeavouring to get out of the house; and had gained the entry, when the gentleman who had assisted the surgeon, opposed

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her

her passage, and desired she would permit him to look at her arm, (which continued bleeding) “ I thank you, sir, said she, my wound is not very troublesome, it will be time enough to dress it when I get to a place of safety: and I cannot bear the thoughts of returning to the wretches I have left.”

He answered. “ You are in a much safer house than that to which you were going; and I insist upon your not stirring from hence till you are more composed: if you have any reason against returning to the people you came with, I will conduct you into another room; for positively you shall not go till your arm is taken care of.”

“ If you will be so good, sir, as to promise I shall not be carried to Mrs. Durant and Mr. Lee, I will sit down a little while.”

“ I know

“ I know nothing of Mrs. Durant, but have heard of several gentlemen of the other name ; and assure you, you shall not be forced anywhere against your inclinations.”

“ Upon this she suffered him to conduct her into a room, and dress her arm; she then offered again to leave the house, but he stopt her, saying, what she had hinted, had excited a curiosity in him to know who Mr. Lee was that she mentioned?”

She answered, he was an apothecary, who lived in Hatton-Garden, and the person who broke his wrist: “ But sir, It was not from choice I accompanied him and the vile creature in whose company you found me; and if you are, as you appear to be a christian and a gentleman, must entreat you to aid an unfortunate, innocent woman, in escaping from the

snare they have laid to render me as infamous as themselves."

The stranger expressed evident marks of astonishment at her speech and behaviour. "Ma'am said he, if you really are such a person as you would insinuate, I am surprized you should think of attending such people as these, and to such an house as the coachman said he was carrying you to; as to the gentleman you mention, I am no stranger to him; the man who was with you may call his name Lee, but he is not the Lee you pretend, and I must own, your endeavouring to impose upon me has not heightened my opinion of you. However, as I would much rather encourage returning virtue, than leave you to pursue an abandoned course, if you will assure me that you will quit the way of life which I have reason to fear you are in, I will be so far your friend, as to protect you from insult, and endeavour

endeavour to place you in a more reputable one."

This gentleman's suspicion threw Miss Murrells into a violent fit of tears, and occasioned such an unaffected concern in her countenance, as induced him to compassionate her.

Having given some vent to her grief, she said, "Oh, sir, you know not how cruelly your conjectures have wounded me; I am as ignorant in the paths of vice as you seem to think me acquainted with them, and have ever lived with reputation. I have been grossly deceived if that man whom I called Lee, is not the person I affirmed him to be: will you permit me to inform you by what means I have been imposed upon?"—"Ma'am," replied he, "I am not only willing to hearken to you, but if you can make good your assertions, shall be ready to assist you."

Upon this she gave him a brief account of her story; which she had no sooner concluded, than he desired her to be as easy as she could, for should he find her relation to be fact, he would do his utmost to relieve her." "I will," continued he, "but just step to Mrs. Durant, and the men, who are still in the house, if you will promise to stay here till I return. I am well acquainted with Mr, Lee and Miss Moody, and knew the connection between them; and if I can but get that lady's letter into my possession, I shall be convinced of your veracity."

Miss Murrells gave him her word she would wait the result of his inquiries; he then left her: and sending for the surgeon, who was his intimate friend, imparted to him the intelligence he had received.

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The surgeon agreed with him, that it would be proper to examine his patience concerning Miss Murrells; and as their evidence corresponded with her's, they should be able to judge in what method to proceed. Accordingly they went together to the room in which Mrs. Durant was, and asked her what woman she had in the coach with her? she answered, her servant, and told her name, saying, she was going to carry her to a justice of peace for robbing her.

They then demanded the names of the men that accompanied her? She replied, one was her nephew, Patrick Mackshane, and the other was a constable.

“ Pray, madam,” said the surgeon,  
 “ Whence had you the girl which you call your servant?

Where is she? said the old woman. !

“ Safe in this gentleman’s custody and mine, returned he: but where did she come from?”

“ Oh, sir, I am much obliged to you for securing her; I beg you would send her to me; I took her upon charity; and had no acquaintance with her but by accidentally travelling in the York coach, when she made such pitiful complaints of being in distress, and destitute of a place, that I took her immediately into my service, little suspecting she would turn out a thief.”

This account not quite agreeing with Miss Murrells’s, who had mentioned Miss Moody’s recommendation, they left Mrs. Durant, and went to the wounded men, of whom they demanded to what place they were going, when the accident happened.

He



He who appeared the most like a gentleman, replied, "To a friend's near Bloomsbury, where we proposed to have passed a joyous evening, had not this cursed affair prevented us. He then bestowed many shocking execrations on the coachman."

Upon this the surgeon left the room, and the gentleman that remained asked who that fellow was, pointing to the man whose head was bound up; and how a person of his appearance came to be placed within-side the coach.

Mackshane answered, "He is the father of the girl that was with us, and is a journeyman pewterer. Poor creature! he is so affected with the accident we met with, that he seems quite regardless of his daughter; who, indeed, does not deserve his care, she is such a devilish jade. I hope, sir, you, or the surgeon, can give some ac-

count of her, for we shall be all undone if she has got away to follow her old trade."

"I thought she had been Mrs. Durant's your aunt's servant."

"So she is, and her father coming to see her, my aunt was so kind as to take him into the coach, in order to set him down at the place where he works."

At this instant the surgeon appeared with a constable, saying at his entrance, "This honest fellow has a warrant to search you, sir, for a snuff-box, which a young woman, who calls herself Arabella Murrells, accuses you of feloniously taking from her."

"Curse the jade! I never wronged her of a brass counter. You may search me, if you please; but if it were not for this plaguy broken wrist, I should try my strength against your warrant."

Upon

Upon this the constable emptied Mack-shane's pockets, in which he could discover nothing like the thing described; but a parcel of papers, which he flung upon the table; one letter among them being addressed to Mr. Lee, apothecary, in Hatton Garden, which the surgeon no sooner laid his eyes on, than he delivered it to the other gentleman, who asked Mack-shane how he came by it; he swore he would not answer so impertinent a question.

“ You rascal!” said the gentleman, “ it is directed to me; and I shall oblige you to account for its being in your possession: you had much better make an open confession; for we have other matters against you, upon account of Miss Murrells, who has deposed, upon oath, that you have been accessory to detaining her in your aunt's house, in order to force her to a compliance

pliance with the wicked designs of Lord Courtall."

To all this he made no other reply, than that he should find a time to be revenged of her for all the lies she had invented of him.

The surgeon was all this time busied in overlooking the other papers; and finding the following letter, read it aloud, saying, "Here is a sufficient proof of this wretch's baseness, and the veracity of the young woman."

The contents were these—

TO MR. PATRICK MACKSHANE, &c.

"CONFOUND you, Patrick! what a devil are you about? I am plaguily disappointed that you and the old fool, your aunt, have not been able to subdue  
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the nonsensical scruples of that obstinate young jade, who has led me such a dance. I was in hopes my saving your neck when you made that pitiful appearance at the Old Bailey, on account of your friend Mac Lean, you would have been ready to have served me upon all occasions; but I find myself mistaken. However, if you can contrive any stratagem to bring Bell Murrells to night to our friend Mother—, you know who, you shall still have my protection, and I shall have that perverse slut. Take notice, I cannot exist another day without her.

Your's, &c.

COURTALL."

Having heard this epistle, "Come, Mr. Mackishane," said the real Mr. Lee, "if you are not inclined to make a second pitiful appearance before that court, from whence this noble lord has delivered you, you

you must persuade your aunt to discharge Miss Murrells from her service immediately. You have taken upon you my name; and it is impossible for me to judge the injury my character may have sustained by such a deception; the constable shall not depart this house till I have her discharge; but if you procure that, and tell me truly who this fellow your accomplice is, I shall give myself no farther trouble about you, but leave you to the care of your right honourable patron."

Patrick, finding he was not in a condition to resist the authority of the constable, promised to comply with his desire; and Mr. Lee having wrote Miss Murrells's discharge, Mackshane was conducted by the constable and the two gentlemen into the presence of his aunt, to whom he said, with an oath, "We are all blown, and you must sign this paper."

Upon



Upon hearing the purport of it, she was at first unwilling; but upon the threats of Mr. Lee, she complied. He then again demanded who the pretended father of Miss Murrells was; and received for answer, "A porter, hired to frighten her, and to facilitate the scheme they had concerted, not of carrying her before a magistrate, but to convey her to his lordship."

Mr. Lee, having obtained this information, bad adieu to the old woman and her nephew, and returned to acquaint the young one with what had passed.



## CHAP. V.

*Contains very little.*

WHEN Mr. Lee entered the room where Miss Murrells was, he found her in tears, and vastly uneasy at his long absence, which she apprehended had afforded him time to hearken to the false accounts her mistress would doubtless give him. But, no sooner had he acquainted her with his proceedings, and convinced her, by relating several incidents which she had heard Miss Moody mention, that he was the identical person to whom that lady had recommended her, than she returned thanks to Heaven, and him, for the protection he offered her.

He told her he imagined her spirits required repose, after the vicissitudes of the day; and yet, before she indulged it, he must offer a proposition tending to her safety: "I have  
the

the honour, madam," continued he, "to be in the good opinion of Miss Moody's aunt, Mrs. Severn; and dare venture to promise you a refuge in her house, untill you can get a suitable service. If you will permit me in the morning to attend you to Hampstead, we can take the stage early; and if you now chuse to go to rest, I have interest enough in this house to procure you a safe retirement; but should you rather quit it, late as it is, I will wait upon you to the inn from whence the Hampstead coach sets out, and leave you there until morning."

Miss Murrells, highly delighted with this scheme, answered, she should regard him as her guardian angel, if he would please to put it in execution immediately, for she could not be easy to pass another hour under the same roof with her persecutors.

He then persuaded her to eat a crust and drink a glass of wine; after which they set forward, on foot, to the house at which the Hampstead coach put up; where he left her for a few hours to the care of the landlady, who, by the force of the royal impression on a certain potent ore, with which Mr. Lee presented her, was prevailed upon to be very assiduous in attending upon Miss Murrells, who we must leave to repair, by rest, the disorder which the accidents of the day had occasioned.

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CHAP.

## C H A P. VI.

*The History of Mrs. Durant.*

HAVING conducted Miss Murrells out of the reach of Mrs. Durant and her nephew, I will give the reader some anecdotes relating to them; which were faithfully transmitted to a person, of whom he will hear more hereafter.

A French refugee who served the grandfather of Lord Courtall, and his lady's woman, after acquiring a competency in their respective services, formed a legal union, the consequences of which was the birth of Mrs. Durant and another daughter. This couple had so far ingratiated themselves into the favour of their noble master, that he procured the man a considerable post under government, to the exclusion of a worthy candidate, whose fortune had been reduced by his ancestors strict adherence to  
their

their king and country, in the great rebellion.

Mrs. Durant was genteely educated by her parents, who lived up to the height of their income, and both died before she attained her eighteenth year, leaving her and her sister destitute of a fortune; upon which she applied to the old earl for some little support, who granted her fifty pounds; but she was of too indolent and proud a disposition to relish a scheme of industry, and rather chose to accept the offer my lord (his son) made her of forty pounds a year to become his mistress, in which capacity she lived upon one of his lordship's estates in the country; till, by the death of his father, he became Earl of——; when he brought her to town, and continued to visit her as formerly; though he had long since married a lady of great merit, beauty, and family, by whom he had Lord Courtall.

Mrs. Du-

Mrs. Durant's sister had the prudence to go into the service of a lady, from whence she married a drummer, belonging to the guards, who was the father of Mackthane.

Mrs. Durant had the art to keep well with the earl, much longer than could be expected from the nature of his attachment to her; and by his interest a post in a certain office, was granted to her nephew, from whence he was expelled for fraudulent practices, by which means both he and his aunt incurred the displeasure of the peer, who, it was conjectured, was glad of a pretence to get rid of so disagreeable companion as she was become, by the alteration time and vice had made in her person.

She had sold her annuity in order to extricate her nephew out of the scrape which his unjust proceedings had brought him into; a considerable sum being demanded for



for not calling him to such an account as must have endangered his life. After she found all her endeavours to regain the favour of the earl ineffectual, she applied to Lord Courtall; who, upon her promise of assisting him in the designs which he was perpetually forming against the virtue of every woman who appeared agreeable to him, placed her in the house where she decoyed Miss Murrells. Her nephew was a hackney writer; by which means, and being pimp in ordinary to his lordship, he subsisted.

In this situation she was when Lord Courtall, finding his hopes of bringing Miss Murrells voluntarily to consent to his proposals baffled, determined, by force or fraud, to get her into his power; to this end he had solicited the assistance of honest Master Adams and his wife, but in vain; and being informed, by his spies, of her journey, he pursued her, and arrived at the  
inn



inn where she dined on the day she reached Bugden, some time before the coach; and was, as no doubt the reader guesses, the very person who held that conference with Justice Moody, which so much alarmed Miss Murrells.

The information he obtained from the justice made him conjecture the protection offered her by Mr. Manly, was of the same nature of that she had rejected from him, and induced him to make the best of his way to town; where he consulted with Mackshane and Mrs. Durant, what method he should take to frustrate Mr. Manly's designs, and secure Miss Murrells.

In this triumvirate it was agreed, that Mrs. Durant should set out early the next morning in a chariot and four, and return to town in the stage coach, which would afford her an opportunity of forming an acquaintance with the young lady, who

she had orders to invite to her house, till she could accommodate herself better. But when this procuress perceived Miss Murrells had wrote (as she imagined) to Mr. Lee, she thought if she could get that letter into her possession it might facilitate a more plausible scheme, and give my lord some information concerning her designs in taking this journey.

This epistle furnished the old woman with the contrivance of imposing Mackthane upon the young lady for Mr. Lee; and was the source of all the vexation she underwent from that deception.

Mrs. Durant, by the accident she met with in the prosecution of his lordship's orders, was rendered incapable of being further serviceable to him in that affair; and he was so ungenerous as to bury the merit of her intentions in his own disappointment, refusing to defray the expences attending

teding the cure; a plain proof that where vice predominates, it extirpates every humane sentiment, as well as every virtue from the soul.

D.

CHAP.

## C H A P. VII.

*Introduces Miss Murrells to a Lady of Quality.*

I APPREHEND the reader will be very ready to leave the wretches mentioned in the preceding chapter, to such reflections as their conduct must occasion, and return to the fair fugitive, whom Mr. Lee escorted to Hampstead. She met with a friendly reception from Mrs. Severn, who, from the account her niece had given of Miss Murrells, was very well inclined to assist her; and Mr. Lee having acquainted her with the conspiracy which had been formed against her, she told the young lady, she should be welcome to stay with her till she could obtain a more reputable service. Upon this Mr. Lee returned to town, and demanded Miss Murrells's port-manteau

manteau and cloaths, which he dispatched to her.

The terror and uneasiness she had been under, made her esteem herself very happy in this situation; and though she was still in a state of uncertainty, as to her future establishment in the world, the tenderness of Mrs. Severn greatly relieved her anxiety, and suspended the corroding reflections of her past and present state.

She had remained near a fortnight with this hospitable lady, when a casual visitor mentioned a young lady of quality and fortune, who was in want of an attendant. Mrs. Severn thinking, as she was a single lady, and lived in great reputation, it would be an advantageous place for Miss Murrells; though she was informed her ladyship was whimsical, and had very little good-nature in her composition; she imagined the person she was to recommend, was not in cir-



cumstances to make objections against such a service; and therefore, having obtained an address, she waited on Lady Fanny Snarler the next day, and recommended Miss Murrells to her. She was so successful in her negotiations, that Miss Murrells removed to Lady Fanny's the following week.

She had not been with her ladyship many days, before she was convinced report had not exaggerated her foibles; and tho' she used her utmost efforts to oblige her, found it impossible. This capricious temper of her lady's, rendered her very unhappy; for she was certain, if her ladyship had conceived any spleen, at the superiority of beauty, or any accomplishments of her acquaintance, to have it all vented upon her in the most opprobrious language. She was an aukward slut! a low-life wretch! and it was owing to such creatures, who did not know how to stick a pin, that she had

Had the mortification of hearing the Irish girls cried up for toasts before her face. She thanked heaven, she had eyes as well as her impertinent acquaintance; and were it not for the stupidity and want of taste in the wretches who dressed her, she could plainly discern the world would acknowledge, she was not inferior to them; but it was always her hard fate to fall into the hands of such creatures.

This was the usual style in which her ladyship conversed with Miss Murrells, who patiently endured, not only the insults of her tongue, but even a blow, which she received, for attempting to vindicate herself in as humble a manner as possible. Being resolved to put up with these mortifications, rather than remove from a place where she lived in credit, and was secured from the pursuits of Lord Courtall; and her good sense suggested to her, that patiently bearing with them, was the best



atonement she could make, for the indulgence she had formerly given to her vanity; and that heaven designed this representation of her own follies, in those of another person, as a lesson and a punishment due to them. Such were the reflections she drew from her lady's behaviour.

A month passed on in this manner, when her lady, returning from an auction one morning, ordered her to carry some china, which she had purchased, into her dressing-room, and place it upon the India cabinet, which she accordingly did. Her ladyship going into the room soon after, cast her eyes upon the cabinet, and in a rage said, "You aukward trollop! how could you dispose the figures in such a frightful manner?"

Miss Murrells answered, she was sorry her ladyship was displeased with it; but if she pleased to inform her how she would have

have them placed, she would alter them; and slipping the curling irons, which she had in her hand, into the fire, was moving up to the china, when her lady stopped her, saying, “ Prithee, monster! hold off your fists, for you shall not touch it.” Upon which she took a piece down with her own hand, which unluckily fell from thence to the ground, and was instantly demolished.

This accident encreasing her wrath, she flew to the fire, and laying hold of the irons, applied them, hot as they were, to Miss Murrells’s cheek, which she pinched with all her might; Miss Murrells at this set up such a scream, as brought up the other servants, to whom she said nothing; but clapping her handkerchief to her face, desired her lady to explain the cause, which obliged her to quit her service that moment.

Ending these words, she ran with great precipitation down stairs, and had gained the street and called a coach, before the servants (who had orders from her lady to detain her and send for a surgeon) could overtake her; but notwithstanding their persuasions, that she would not leave the house in that manner, she stepped into the coach, and was conveyed, according to her desire, to Mr. Lee's.

That humane gentleman was in the utmost surprize at the appearance she made, and immediately procured a surgeon. Her burn being dressed, notwithstanding the pain, nothing could deter her from proceeding to Hampstead that very night, where she was kindly received by Mrs. Severn; whose concern at being instrumental in placing her with this quality virago, was little inferior to that of the poor sufferer.

She desired Miss Murrells to continue with her till her face was well, and advised  
her

her to prosecute Lady Fanny for the action; but this last proposal she would not agree to. A few days after her arrival at Hampstead, she received the following letter—

“ TO ARABELLA MURRELLS, &c.

“ MURRELLS,

“ **I** AM sorry for the accident that made you leave my family in so unhand-some a manner; the provokation your awkwardness daily gave me was insupportable; tho’ I own, I was to blame to carry my resentments so far; and it was certainly very wrong for me to expect such a creature should be capable of adorning my house or my person: for you must confess you have no taste in life, and that I had good reason to be angry; and when you knew my temper, and had committed such an egregious blunder in misplasing the china, you should not have provoked me by staying in my presence; but I did not in-

tend to hurt you, only desired a mild correction for your faults, to make you more careful another time; but since you may be at some expense in the cure of the slight hurt you have had, I inclose a bank note of 20l. which you must think a full amends. And I desire, I may never more set eyes on a wench that has given me such trouble.

F. SNARLER."

The bill that accompanied this surly epistle, compensated for the rest of its contents, and afforded Miss Murrells a seasonable relief; the small pittance saved out of the ruins of her father's fortune being nearly exhausted; and the manner in which she had been obliged to quit her services, having made no addition to it.

The surgeon, to whose care Mr. Lee had consigned her, made a speedy cure, with  
little



little blemish to her face; and kindly refused to accept of any gratuity for his trouble.

She now began to enquire for another service, and was advised to apply to Miss Aldrich, an heiress, lately come of age, and to the possession of 30,000*l.* whose character was the reverse of Lady Fanny's. Mrs. Severn, perceiving she was desirous of attending her, made application to the lady on her behalf; but the consequence of that must be deferred to the subsequent chapter.



## C H A P. VIII.

*Miss Murrells changes her Habitation.*

MISS Aldrich was no sooner acquainted with Miss Murrells's desire, than she readily received her into her family, which consisted of two other female servants, a coachman, footman, and butler. In this place she experienced a quite contrary behaviour from her lady than what she had been used to at her former. Miss Aldrich was ever easy, and in a disposition to be pleased. Being a woman of gaiety, with so affluent a fortune, her house was crouded with visitants of promiscuous characters, and a group of professed admirers perpetually attended her.

Amongst this class, Miss Murrells was greatly surprized to see her fellow traveller  
 Captain

Captain Cannon, who made his court to her lady with great assiduity, and to all appearance was not ill received by her, as she permitted him to attend her wherever she went. She had the discernment, to discover her lady had no great share of understanding, and began to fear, she would become a prey to that insipid coxcomb, who personated the fine gentleman so well, as to render himself an acceptable guest in the family. She imagined the reception he met with, proceeded from her lady's ignorance of his real character and quality; and thought it was her duty to give her some information concerning him.

Accordingly, one morning when Miss Aldrich returned from Ranelagh, whither he attended her, she took the liberty to ask, of what family Captain Cannon was? —“ To tell you truly Bell, I never had  
the

the curiosity to enquire; but no doubt, by his appearance he is a gentleman: I danced with him at a ball about a month ago; since which time he has frequently visited me. I never concern myself about his family or fortune, as he is good humoured and very entertaining; dances to a miracle; and there is not a creature understands bragg better. For my part, I like his conversation very well to kill an hour with; but, I suppose, by your question, you think I may have accepted his offers of love, for I know the world think so; but I assure you, I have no design of marrying at present."

Miss Murrells was much pleased with this declaration, and as her lady appeared so indifferent about Cannon, said nothing more of him, than that his frequent visits had induced her to regard him as a lover. Yet thinking, he might have some  
ascendant

ascendant over her lady, and would probably endeavour to remove her from her ear if he knew she was in her service, she resolved to avoid his sight whenever he came.

She remained in this family a few months, when Miss Aldrich spent a day upon the Thames, upon a party of pleasure, where she got such a violent cold, that a fever succeeded of so malignant a nature, that she expired in ten days, to the inexpressible concern of her whole family; particularly to her servant Bell, who was again obliged to return to her good friend Mrs. Severn, who had given her an invitation, whenever she was at a loss for a place, to repair to her house.

Upon the Saturday night, after her return to Mrs. Severn's, a visitor arrived there from town, who was to return on the Monday. At her first appearance,

Miss

Miss Murrells imagined she had some where seen her before, but could not recollect at what place, till Mrs. Severn, expressing great pleasure at the sight of her, said “ Pray, Mrs. Hill, how does all our Suffolk friends?”

The mention of her name and that country, brought to Miss Murrells’s remembrance the milliner, at whose house she had seen the mountebank, and she presently recognized her in this visitant. She perceived by her conversation, that she was a woman of good sense and experience, and from the respect which Mrs. Severn paid to her, conceived a very different idea of her than what she formerly had.

“To this gentlewoman, the lady of the house imparted Miss Murrells’s desire of procuring a service, and begged her to recommend her to one. A motion not  
very



very agreeable to Miss Murrells, who could not think of settling in a neighbourhood, where her family had lived in splendor; and thought herself less liable to observation whilst she remained about town. She therefore, having thanked Mrs. Severn, for so kindly interesting herself in her affairs, in as modest a manner as possible, declared she had particular reasons against entering into any service in the county of Suffolk, where she imagined Mrs. Hill resided.

To which Mrs. Severn replied, "I cannot condemn you for chusing a more distant situation. But Mrs. Hill has left that neighbourhood some years, and is settled in her business in London; and from her acquaintance with many families of distinction, I think it may be in her power to recommend you."

Miss



Miss Murrells hearing this informed Mrs. Hill of the reasons which had induced her to decline her assistance; adding, as she resided in town, she should be greatly obliged to her, if she could tell her of a suitable place.

Mrs. Hill answered, " I will be sure to inform you of the first vacancy of that sort that I can hear of. But, madam, as you have shewn such a laudable desire of supporting yourself by industry, and have been so unsuccessful in your undertakings hitherto, perhaps you would not dislike attending my shop in the capacity of a journey-woman; I have at this time occasion for a genteel person in that way, and would with pleasure take you upon your own terms."

Mrs. Severn seconded this proposition, and said, she thought it preferable to any service

service she could fix in. Miss Murrells no less approved of it, and agreed to attend Mrs. Hill to town on the monday,

CHAP.

## C H A P. IX.

*Mrs. Hill relates her History.*

MRS. Hill, being returned to her own house, made Miss Murrells comprehend her business, which she was able to perform with great facility, esteeming herself very fortunate in attaining so easy a method of procuring a subsistence: her mistress treated her as a friend and companion, making no distinction between her and her own daughter, of whose bed she partook, and was always seated at the same table.

Such a freedom of behaviour induced her to take the liberty of asking Mrs. Hill, how long she had been in that way of life? and of what profession her late husband was? to which she replied, “ When I entered into business I was as  
unacquainted

unacquainted with it as you are. My father was a country gentleman, of an ancient family, whose ancestors had, by extravagance, in a few successions, reduced an hereditary estate of three thousand pounds a year to as many hundreds; when my grand-father became possessor of it, who prudently resolved, by the strictest œconomy, to prevent a further dissipation. Adhering to this determination made him looked upon by many, and even by his own children, as rather too penurious. my father being his only son, was sent to the university, in order to qualify him for the church; but his expences there proving greater than the old gentleman expected, he removed him from thence in two years, and prevailed upon him, who was naturally fond of a rural life, to reside in the country, and endeavour to improve his estate, by turning the bent of his studies to the cultivation of his lands. Besides my father, he had a daughter who

was

was married to the rector of the parish, by whom she had a son, before her brother's return from college.

“ When my father attained to the age of thirty, my grandfather advised him to marry the daughter of a neighbouring gentleman, who gave her a suitable fortune. Within a year after their marriage I was born, in my grandfather's house; for, being a widower, they lived together; and, I have heard, in great harmony. The following year my mother brought me a sister, who expired as soon as she saw light; and my mother survived her but a fortnight.

“ The utmost care was taken of me; and I was reared up upon my grandfather's knee, who was infinitely fond of me in my infancy: and when I was about six years old, my father dying of a mortification in his leg, which was occasioned by a bruise he received from a piece of timber falling

falling upon him, my grandfather took his loss so to heart, that he did not outlive him many months.

“ I was left, at their decease, to the guardianship of my uncle, the clergyman, with two thousand pounds to my fortune, the bulk of my grandfather's estate being by him bequeathed to my cousin, the clergyman's son. My guardian and his good wife, discharged their trust with great care and fidelity; and I remained in their family three years, when they placed me at a boarding school in the neighbourhood; where, upon account of the loss of my aunt, I continued much longer than she intended.

“ I was eighteen when I left it; and had formed an acquaintance with the son of a great wool-factor in the place, who was reputed to be very wealthy. This young man had gained my affections so

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far



far, that I solicited my uncle's consent to marry him: he at first did not much approve of my entering into the cares of life at so inexperienced an age: but by the persuasions of Mr. Hill and his son, agreed to our marriage; and we resided with my father-in-law; during whose life I lived in a state of ease and plenty; in which time I had a son and daughter. But no sooner was he dead, than I found all his boasted wealth reduced to a sum hardly sufficient to carry on the trade. My husband was rather too careless in his business when left to himself; and by his fondness for tavern company neglected it so much that I saw every day signs of approaching ruin.

“ Our son had received an academical education, as we designed him for one of the faculties: he was prosecuting his studies at the university when his grandfather's death, and the reduction of our  
circumstances,

circumstances, obliged us to retrench his expences as well as our own; which he resented so highly, as to leave the kingdom without giving us any intimation of his intentions or destination.

“ It is impossible to describe the grief this rash proceeding of his occasioned in Mr. Hill and me. All enquiries after the wanderer proving ineffectual, and Mr. Hill’s affairs becoming quite desperate, he fell into a lingering disorder, which brought him to his grave, and left me destitute of a provision for myself and daughter: for, though I had obtained a marriage bond, I had been persuaded to give it up some time before.

I was now under the most poignant affliction, the creditors seizing all my necessaries, when my uncle was so kind as to put me into the shop in which you saw me, and generously furnished me

with a stock to begin business with. Ten years I lived in that manner; and, by the kindness of those who had known my family, found it turn to good account. At the expiration of this term, when I had given over all thoughts of ever hearing of my son, I received a letter from him, indited in a very dutiful stile, and informing me, that he was in the East Indies, and by the favour of a friend with whom he went over, had been fixed in a very profitable post some years, out of which he had saved enough to transmit me 500l. with a promise if he lived of allowing me 100l. yearly out of his income.

“Upon receipt of this consolatory epistle I forgot all the concern his sudden departure had given me, and impatiently longed to see the returning prodigal; but that he said I could not expect at present. I was now advised to settle in London, where

where I had many friends; and being willing to make some future provision for my daughter, I entered into business here, which I find more than answers my most sanguine expectations."

Miss Murrells perceiving she paused here, congratulated her upon her son's return to his duty, and the fortunate change in her circumstances; and poured forth her acknowledgements, for the affability and kindness she experienced from her, and her daughter, who was a handsome, simple, inoffensive young woman.

In this family she passed her days much to her satisfaction, and kept up a constant correspondence with her good friend Mrs. Severn, from whom she had frequent accounts of Miss Moody's health and welfare. She would willingly have wrote to thank that young lady for the kind recommendation she had given her to Mr.

Lee, but Mrs. Severn had told her, her brother never permitted her to hold a correspondence with any body but her, and therefore she would undertake to acquaint her with her sentiments.

CHAP.

## C H A P. X.

*Miss Murrells meets with an old Acquaintance.*

M I S S Murrells had been some months with Mrs. Hill, before she was taken notice of by any of her former acquaintance; though she frequently saw ladies, who visited her parents when they lived in town, none had recognized her; till one morning she was called into the shop, to serve a gentleman with neck-cloths, and was agreeably surprized to find her friend Mr. Manly, was the person who enquired for them. He expressed great pleasure at meeting with her, and a desire of knowing how she came to be fixed there,

Mrs. Hill over-hearing this, and being informed by Miss Murrells who he was, civilly invited him into a parlour;

E 4                      where



where Miss Murrells, in her presence, related to him all that had befallen her since her arrival in town. This detail confirmed him in the good opinion he had conceived of her merit, and served to give him an high idea of Miss Moody's lover and aunt, whom Mrs. Hill said she expected to drink tea with her in the afternoon, and should take it as a great favour if he would meet them, which he promised to do; he then took his leave; and returned in the afternoon, where he found Mrs. Severn and Mr. Lee; and after the first salutations were over, he genteely addressed them with compliments on their behaviour to Miss Murrells; and enquired after justice Moody and his daughter,

Mrs. Hill being called out of the room upon business, which kept her some time, Mr. Manly made some enquiry concerning her. In answer to which

Mrs.

Mrs. Severn acquainted him with her history.

This company much pleased with each other's conversation, did not separate till late in the evening, when Mr. Manly invited them all to spend the next day at his house, offering to send his coach for them. Upon which it was agreed Mrs. Severn, Miss Murrells, Mrs. Hill, and Mr. Lee, should go in the morning, and Miss Peggy Hill should join them in the evening, as her mother and she could not be absent the whole day. Accordingly they went; and Mr. Manly and Mrs. Severn had a long conversation concerning Miss Moody; whose situation and her father's obstinacy her aunt lamented; and gave such a character of Mr. Lee, as determined Mr. Manly to do all in his power to serve him; to whom Mr. Lee made so pathetic and honest a representation of the affair between him and Miss Moody, that

he assured him, no endeavours on his part should be wanting to facilitate his desire, and obtain her father's consent.

When dinner was served up, a grave well-looking woman who seemed to be turned of seventy, made her appearance, and did the honours of the table, and withdrew when the company returned into the drawing-room. Upon which Miss Murrells asked Mr. Manly, if that lady was a relation of his? he replied; "No, ma'am, she is my housekeeper; and, old as I am, was my nurse. She is a gentlewoman, I assure you, otherwise I should not have introduced her into this good company: she has experienced hard fate in this world; but I have reason to hope from her conduct, she will be intitled to a large portion of happiness in the next."

"What

“What you have said of this gentleman, sir,” returned Mrs. Severn, “has raised a curiosity in me to learn the occasion of her misfortunes, which, if it is not improper to divulge, I should be obliged to you to relate.”

“As there is no circumstance, ma’am, in her life that can possibly redound to her dishonour, but many that must excite the commiseration of a lady of your disposition, I shall, without any preamble, give you her history.

“She derived her birth from a gentleman of great eminence in the law, who, by the extravagance of his wife, and a numerous family, was rendered incapable of making a provision for his children adequate to their merit and education. I shall pass over all circumstances relative to the other part of her family, and confine myself to those that immediately

concerned her. At the age of nineteen, a gentleman of fortune demanded her of her father in marriage; he professed so ardent a passion for her, that he soon gained her affections, and her father's consent; being esteemed, by all his acquaintance and the world in general, a man of good morals and great sobriety; and she was the envy of the neighbourhood, for making so considerable an alliance. Her husband was extravagantly fond of her, and every month brought with it an increase of happiness to her, who was, at the expiration of twelve, delivered of a son, which she determined to suckle herself; and was employed in that office one day, within six weeks after its birth, when Mr. Perkins, her husband, was from home, a woman abruptly entered the room where she was sitting; and without any apology for her intrusion, told her, she was Mr. Perkins's wife, and the mother of four children by him;

him; and was come to claim her right, least her babes should be injured.

“ This story could not immediately gain credit with the unfortunate lady; but the other producing incontestible proofs of the truth of it, she would not wait the return of Mr. Perkins, but left his house that night; and in the greatest affliction, taking her infant with her, retired to her father’s, who died in a few weeks after her arrival, leaving his affairs so embarrassed, that his family had no hope to save any thing out of them. Mr. Perkins, in this time, wrote several penitential and tender epistles to her, imploring her pardon; and begging she would give him an opportunity to learn from her own mouth, that she forgave him. He was so importunate, that she consented to an interview, and received him with great composure, attending to all he had to say, without interruption.

“ He



“ He told her, the person who occasioned their separation, had been a servant in his father’s family, and had decoyed him into a marriage with her, when he was but sixteen; that he had made her a settlement of 200*l.* a year for life, and had bound himself to make an handsome provision for her children. Upon which she had engaged never to give him any molestation for the future. He represented; that as the affair had not yet taken air, it might still remain a secret, and no one could asperse her reputation, if she returned to him and continued with him as his wife; she might make her own conditions, for he was ready to resign up his whole fortune, but that which he had settled in the manner he had mentioned, to her disposal.

“ To all this she replied, he might be assured she forgave him, and wished him well; but so far from consenting to this proposal, she would not so much as bear  
his

his name; and nothing should ever bribe her voluntarily to infringe the rights of another; and therefore she must insist upon never seeing him more; that, as she brought him no money, she had no doubt but she should be able to get a livelihood in an honest way; which she preferred to living in affluence, at the expence of her own virtue, and another's peace of mind. She said, his pretence of secrecy with regard to the world, was very specious; but it was ever her rule, to guide her actions according to the dictates of her conscience; and it would afford her little ease, to be acquitted in the opinion of a few short sighted mortals, and condemned by that monitor which the all-seeing Being had implanted in her breast; and concluded, with requesting some provision for her infant, and that he would take his final leave of her; being determined never to hold another conference with him.

“ He

“ He made use of every persuasive argument to induce her to recede from her resolution: but finding them ineffectual, he had recourse to threats, and said, since she was so obstinate, and regardless of her own advantage, he would leave her to make her way through life as well as she could, for he would never grant her six-pence towards her subsistence upon any terms, but those he had offered; she still persisting in her resolution, they parted.

“ Just at this period, I came into the world, when she was recommended to my mother as a wet nurse; who having been acquainted with her story, gladly received her, and permitted her to suckle her own child with me, treating her as a friend and a gentlewoman, rather than a menial servant.

“ She had been in our family three months, when Mr. Perkins died very suddenly,

denly, not without suspicion of being accessory to his own death, as a phial was found near him; which it was evident had contained laudanum. Upon his death, his legal wife put in her claim, which was accepted, and her son by law, put into possession of his estate; dying intestate, my nurse and her child had not one shilling. However, it pleased heaven to recall her babe in less than a year, and she continued with my mother to her death, which happened about seven years since; at which time I made her an offer of residing with me, not as a servant, but as mistress of my house; Providence having deprived me of the best of wives. My mother bequeathed her an annuity of 30*l.* a year, which enables her to pass the remainder of her life in ease. She does not always chuse to sit at my table when I have company; but by the account I gave her of that I expected to-day, she had no objection to appearing."

Mr.

Mr. Manly having concluded his narrative, the conversation turned upon this lady's misfortune's, and the laudable fortitude with which she supported herself under them, when it was interrupted by the entrance of Mr. Moreton, a gentleman of distinction, with whom Mr. Manly was particularly acquainted; but for a further account of him we refer the reader to the next chapter.

CHAP.

## C H A P. XI.

*A happy Marriage.*

UPON the appearance of Mr. Moreton, Mr. Manly enquired after his lady, and was answered she was gone to visit a relation in Cheshire, and that he should have attended her, if he had not been detained in town by an affair of consequence.

Miss Murrells, hearing him mention Cheshire, asked if he had any knowledge of Sir Charles Farewell; he replied it was to his house his wife was gone; upon which she made great enquiries after lady Farewell, and was informed she enjoyed a large share of health and happiness; that she had not been in town since she married, but was expected shortly.

Mr.



Mr. Manly at this said, “ I never knew, sir, that Sir Charles was any relation of your’s; pray, how came the alliance?

“ By a happy turn of fortune,” returned Mr. Moreton. “ You must know, sir, my wife’s mother was cousin-german to one Dr. Godwin, a clergyman, whose distant situation rendered him a greater stranger than she wished, for she always expressed the highest opinion of his desert. Mrs. Moreton, when a child, remembers his visiting her father, but he being fixed in the eastern part of the kingdom, and her family in Shropshire, they had little opportunities of seeing each other, and the acquaintance dropped. It happened a few years ago, my wife was at a fan-shop, when a young woman came in to pay for a couple of fans, desiring a receipt, as they were for her lady. Being asked her name, Mrs. Moreton observed she replied Godwin; upon which, she entered into conversation with

with her concerning her family, and finding she was the daughter of Dr. Godwin, told her she was her relation; and gave her an invitation to our house. Some days after she came to see us; and having enquired into her situation, I desired my wife would insist upon her leaving the place she was in, and come and reside in our family, for I was well acquainted with the character of the people she was with, though an entire stranger to their persons, and thought it very hard for a person of her birth and qualifications to be dependent upon them."

Miss Murrells could not suppress a blush which arose in her face at this, but the gentleman, not conjecturing she had any concern in his speech, continued.

"My cousin was very grateful for the offer, and we thought ourselves happy in her company, which we determined not  
to

to part from, on terms short of an advantageous settlement for life.

“ When she had passed a month with us, Sir Charles Farewell dined with me, and I remarked evident tokens of confusion in the countenances of them both whilst at table, and that his eyes were continually directed to her. This behaviour I must own gave rise to a suspicion in my mind, derogatory to Sir Charles’s honour, as I could perceive this was not their first interview, and knowing he had been a frequent visitor at the house of her late master, whilst she resided there, and had lately withdrawn his acquaintance from the family, I began to conjecture an imprudent attachment to each other, the post that she filled, and her indigence, affording little probability of an honourable one. My intimacy with Sir Charles being such as to allow a freedom of speech, I determined

ed

ed to be very explicit with him, if the case was as I imagined. The ladies withdrawing after dinner, we were left to ourselves, when I asked him how he came to drop his acquaintance with Mr. Murrells? this question seeming to add to his confusion, confirmed my suspicions. He blushed, and said with some hesitation, dear Moreton! why will you bring a foolish affair to my mind, that I would willingly forget.

“ Such a reply alarming me still more I with unusual gravity, said, you best know, Sir Charles, the nature of your attachment to that family, and whether it deserved the epithet you bestow upon it; as we have always been friends, you must excuse a curiosity which may appear impertinent, and yet I assure you, it concerns me nearly to be informed of the motive of your frequent visits there, and the reasons for your withdrawing them. I pre-  
sume

sume, answered he, these interrogations proceeded from some information you have received from one of the company that dined with us.—Perhaps she may imagine I have acted dishonourably in quitting the pursuit of an amour, that has caused me more vexation than I ever experienced in any incident of my life.

“How, Sir! cried I, can either of the ladies you saw to day have any colour for such an accusation? Dear Moreton! continued he, by your warmth, I perceive you seem to think she had, but upon my honour, my behaviour to Miss Murrells, does not deserve such a construction.”

“Miss Murrells, returned I peevishly, what’s Miss Murrells to the purpose?—I do not apprehend she has any accusation against you. But—

Here he stopt me, with, “If she has not, I am certain no one else has.

I own

I own, I was charmed with her person and accomplishments, and sought her affections with great assiduity, making her, with unfeigned sincerity, an offer of marriage, but was not so fortunate to obtain a favourable return; and as she could not be persuaded to abate of her disdain, I ceased to trouble her with my importunities, and have ever since been endeavouring to banish her from my thoughts; but the unexpected sight of a person, that I had seen in her family, to whom I imagine my pretensions are no secret, awakened the remembrance of her, and made me behave in a very aukward manner."

" This speech dissipated my fears, and finding no grounds for the suspicion I had entertained, I thought proper to conceal it from Sir Charles, and lay hold of his, concerning the report made by my cousin; and after begging pardon for the liberty I had taken, told him he had furnished me



with an answer if ever his behaviour to Miss Murrells should be condemned; but assured him, Miss Godwin had made no misrepresentation of the case, though, as she knew not the true reason for his absenting himself from Mr. Murrells's, she might impute it to a different cause. Upon this, he asked me many questions concerning my cousin, and I gave him a full account of her, and her family. Our conversation then took another turn, and we separated.

“ He continued to visit me with his usual freedom, and was particularly complaisant to Miss Godwin, when one evening, upon leaving me, he told me he had an affair of importance to communicate to me, if I would be at his lodgings in the morning. I attended him, and little ceremony passed between us, before he said, “ Dear friend! the detail you gave me of the desert and misfortunes of your  
worthy

worthy cousin, Miss Godwin, has tended greatly to increase a liking I conceived at the first sight of her, the disadvantages she appeared then under, as servant to the haughty beauty who I attended, made me imagine her too much my inferior to think of her as a wife, and the prospect of obtaining her upon other terms, I ever abhorred, seducing an innocent girl being amongst the actions which I dare not commit; but, since I find she is derived from a family, who want nothing but fortune to render an alliance with me proper, in the eye of the world, I am determined, if her heart is disengaged, to make her an offer of marriage; what I desire of you is, to tell me ingenuously, if you think she is free from any attachment."

"Having expressed the just sense I had of the honour Sir Charles's proposal conferred upon my cousin, I assured him,

She was entirely free from any engagement of that sort. He then proposed to acquaint her with his sentiments in the afternoon, and I returned home to give her some intimation of his design. To shorten my story, Sir Charles and she so well approved of each other, that in less than a month, my cousin became Lady Farewell, and by her prudent conduct in that rank, become the darling of her husband, his relations, and acquaintance.

Mr. Manly having received this information, desired Mr. Moreton would introduce him to Sir Charles and his lady upon their return to town; but as he imagined, by the confusion Miss Murrells appeared in, a longer conversation upon the subject would be disagreeable to her, he changed the topic, till Mr. Moreton withdrew, and a servant delivered a letter to Mr. Manly, which, having perused, he communicated

communicated it to Mrs. Severn, who read as follows :

TO ——— MANLY, ESQ. &c.

“ GOOD SIR,

“ **T**HESE lines comes to let you know I am in health, though I have had a tedious fit of the goout, sins I saw you, and I can but just make shifte to stump to sessions. My daughter has been very good to me when I was sick, and I minded your advize, and I did not say no more to her but that I would be obeyed, which is but reeson. Now Squire Hardy has had a letter to tell him Mr. Timothy is expected every day, and I dont know what I shall do with that young sarpant Rose, without you will be so kind to come to the Sullens next week, as you promised, afore he comes, and she may mind your talk more than mine. Good Sir, if you will be so kind

E 3. to.

to come, you will much oblige your humble servant to command,

GILBERT MOODY.

The contents of this epistle visibly chagrined Mr. Lee, who earnestly implored Mr. Manly's assistance, in rescuing Miss Moody from the constraint the justice seemed determined to put upon her inclinations. To which, Mr. Manly replied, "I will certainly comply with the request in Mr. Moody's letter, and make him a visit next week, when I will use my utmost endeavours, to persuade him to leave the young lady at liberty to reject Mr. Hardy's offer; and perhaps if this can be effected, he may, in time, be brought to approve her own choice." The lover returned thanks for this kind design, and the company separated.

CHAP.

## C H A P. XII.

*A Smithfield Bargain rejected.*

ON the day before Mr. Manly set out for the country, he called upon Miss Murrells to acquaint her with his intentions, and found her just about to step into an hackney coach, when he asked her whither she was going? she answered, “to Smithfield sir, to fetch my good old nurse, who, notwithstanding the distance, is come to town to see me; for as soon as I was settled with Mrs. Hill, I wrote to desire to hear of her, and the good creature is come in person to answer me, as you may perceive by this letter, which I received an hour since.” She then delivered a paper to him, the contents of which were thus expressed.



“**D**E ER child i get the man of the hous to rite this for to let you now that i cood not rest to leese you so far of so i cum to londen in the wagin and i lay at the bear and raged staff in smit-feld ware i pray you to come to me for my bons ake so that i can not cum to you not tel i have got sum rest al from your lovin nurse Mary Adams,”

Mr. Manly desired to know what she intended to do with Mrs. Adams; she replied, as Mrs. Hill had been so kind to offer the old woman a bed, she was going to fetch her. Upon this she stepped into the coach, and Mr. Manly returned to his, wherein he was but just seated, when he met Mr. Lee, and took him into his coach; a short conference passed between them, when they called a hack, into which they entered, and drove off for a place within ten miles of St. James's; but

but as their expedition was a secret one, we will not impertinently enquire into it till we have attended Miss Murrells to the house from whence nurse's letter was dated.

Before she alighted, she enquired for Mrs. Adams, and was informed the person she expected waited for her, upon which, she permitted the host to conduct her into a room, upon his saying he supposed she would not like to go into his kitchen, where her friend was. She desired Mrs. Adams might be sent to her immediately, and ordered the coach to wait, but had but just given these orders, when two men, shabbily accoutered, entered the room, one of which bolted the door, whilst the other rudely laid hold of her arm, saying, "Now Bell, you shall make me amends for the plague I have had about you; do you see" (pointing to his wrist which was bound up)

F 5

"what

“ what an injury I have got, by attending upon you? but now I have you once more in my power, you shall either comply with Lord Courtall’s proposals, or remain a prisoner in the place where I will convey you; I was determined to trace you out, if you were above ground, and have been scheming to catch you, ever since I accidentally saw you in the milliners shop; come, you must agree to his lordship’s terms, for you have no bully now to rescue you.”

These menaces, which she found came from Mackshane, and the disappointment of not meeting nurse, so overwhelmed her with grief and surprize, as to render her incapable of replying to them. She burst into tears, and struggled to get from him, when his companion approached her, who appeared by his dress not a degree above a porter, but upon his pulling  
off

off a large patch which he wore upon one eye, and throwing off his hat, she perceived him to be the noble lord, whose presence was so odious to her. At sight of him she gave a scream and dropt motionless into a chair. His lordship hurrying on his patch and hat, rang for water, and had but just time to give orders for the coach to drive up which had brought him, when Mr. Manly and Mr. Lee rushed into the room, with each a stout cudgel in their hands; they fastened the door and demanded the lady, who was but just recovering from her swoon, and very near relapsing, with the extreme joy their unexpected arrival occasioned.

Mr. Lee, no sooner laid eyes on Mack-sharé, than he recognized his face, and bestowed his cudgel very liberally upon him, whilst Mr. Manly chastised the other in like manner, till the pimp cried quarters, declaring at the same time the

person they were abusing, was a man of quality.

Upon this Mr. Manly asked who he was. "The Son of an Earl" replied his lordship, "but I shall take some other opportunity of revenging the affront offered to my quality; I wear a sword."

"You puppy!" answered Manly (accompanying his words with a swinging blow across his lordship's shoulders) "can such a rascal as you, whose cowardice is a disgrace to your sex, pretend to impose yourself upon me for a nobleman? or do you think it possible for me to imagine a person of quality, or any gentlemen, would degrade himself to such an appearance as you make, or be guilty of so mean an action as to forge such a letter, and form so low a plot for the destruction of an innocent young lady? you may take your time when you please, to return these



these favours, and I will make use of the present to correct a villain, who presumes to dishonour titles to which he has no pretensions." He then gave his lordship as hearty a drubbing as Slack or Goddard ever bestowed."

Mr. Lee was not in the least behind-hand in quitting scores with his attendant, who received, as well as his patron, too deep an impression of their favours to be easily erased. In the scuffle, the landlord forced the door open, and was taxed by Mr. Manly with being an accomplice with those fellows, in their design of running away with the lady. To which he replied, "As I hope for mercy, I am as innocent of what your honour talks on as the child unborn; as your honour may well suppose, when your worship hears what I have to say."—"Say on," answered Manly.

"Your



“ Your honour must understand, that one of these men came to my house, and called for a double mug, enquiring for the Northamptonshire waggon, as when it came in, and when it set out, and the like of that. Then he made enquiry after the York one, and when I had satisfied his curiosity, and he had called for another double mug, we entered into discourse concerning the good of the state.”

Mr. Manly, out of all patience at this harangue, begged the fellow to come to the point, and leave his politics.

“ Then your honour must understand,” said the host, “ he told me as how a friend of his was a going to be married to a young gentlewoman, and her friends would not agree to it, though she loved him as her own life; whereupon, an please your worship, he said she had agreed to tell them that she must come to my house to meet one Mrs. Adams, and so they purposed to go

go to the Fleet\* to get married. This was the whole truth of the matter for certain, or I would not have meddled or made with it, for it was no bread and butter of mine, you know, though the gentleman behaved himself like a gentleman, that I must say, and paid nobly for what he had; yet if so be I had known he had designed to deal unhandsomely by the gentlewoman, in any shape in life, he should not have brought her here. I pay scot and lot, and my house is in as good name as any in London. I am certain my guests have always a hearty welcome and good accommodation; it an't my way to use many words, but I must say, you will not find better entertainment at any house in the field."

Whilst the landlord uttered this speech, Lord Courtall and Mackshane sneaked off, not a little mortified at the ill success of their enterprize. And Mr. Manly, satisfied with

\* This was written before the marriage act took place, and first published in 1753.

with the punishment he had inflicted upon his lordship, would not add to his disgrace by endeavouring to interrupt his retreat, or informing the inn-keeper of his quality, who was very desirous of learning the true cause of Mr. Manly's resentment; upon which that gentleman told him there was not a word of truth in what those men had said; who had formed several stratagems before to catch that lady, but he acquitted him, as did Miss Murrells, of being privy to their wicked intentions.

During Mr. Manly's conversation with the landlord, Mr. Lee acquainted Miss Murrells, that Mr. Manly had but just put her into the coach, when it occurred to him that nurse's letter might be a forgery, and he determined in order to assist her, if any scheme should be in agitation to ensnare her: "Meeting me," continued he, "he quitted his own coach for a hackney one, to escape observation, and insisted upon my accom-

accompanying him. In our way hither, he informed me of his apprehensions. Upon our alighting, the inn-keeper was very unwilling to own you were here, till I told him Mr. Manly was a member of parliament, and a justice of the peace, and would punish him severely for secreting you; that if he did not immediately inform us where you was he would produce a search warrant. Upon this the fellow owned you was in this room with your sweetheart and another person; we had not received this information above a minute, when we heard you scream; what followed you know."

Miss Murrells was beginning to return thanks to her deliverers, when Mr. Manly begged she would suspend them till she was out of that house; and presenting the landlord with a guinea, and giving him a caution of being too credulous for the future, they departed.

As soon as they were seated in the coach, he told Miss Murrells, as Lord Courtall had discovered her place of residence, he feared her continuance there would render her liable to fresh troubles; and though he was sorry she should be deprived of such agreeable companions as Mrs. Hill and her daughter, it was his opinion she should seek out a more private one. This advice made her weep; however, she was convinced by his reasons the situation she was in was too public for her, and said she had no objection to waiting upon any lady of character, provided she could meet with such treatment as Miss Aldrich afforded her, but she dreaded a Lady Snarler.

Mr. Manly replied, " Since such is your desire, ma'am, I will recommend you to one of the most amiable women of my acquaintance, the lady of Colonel Jeffon, with whom I am to pass this evening, and will represent your case, it is probable, if she should



should not want you, some of her acquaintance may."

This proposition was approved of by Miss Murrells, who upon her arrival at Mrs. Hill's made a report of all that had passed. The thoughts of her removal was no less disagreeable to this kind mistress, than they were to Miss Murrells, but the reasons against her continuance in a place known to her persecutors, were too strong to admit of any objection, and a separation was sorrowfully agreed upon.

In the morning Mrs. Jeffon came to enquire for her, and told her, from the recommendation she had received from Mr. Manly, if she chose to attend upon her, she was ready to take her into her house immediately, as her own maid being engaged to marry, only staid till she could be accommodated with a person in her place.

And



And after some conversation upon the subject, it was agreed she should wait upon Mrs. Jeffon in a few days.

## CHAP.

## C H A P. XIII.

*A Prospect of the Sullens.*

HAVING disposed of Miss Murrells, for a time, we will attend Mr. Manly to the house of Justice Moody, which, with the help of a set of horses, he reached by five in the afternoon; the village in which it was situated was so enclosed by woods, that he had not the least view of it, till he drove up to an high brick wall, which seemed to have been reared with a design to obstruct the contracted prospect of the vale in which it was built; in the centre of this wall was a close folding gate, over the top of which peeped several venerable yews, that served to secrete the ancient mansion of the Moody's; on the one side was a dove-house, on the other a rookery. Mr. Manly's attendants, with no small clamour, gave notice of their master's arrival;

arrival; and the justice issued out to meet him, and conducted him through the court to a door, fortified by a sufficient number of iron plates and rusty nails, against the assaults of any modern invader, and never opened but to receive particular friends, amongst which number the proprietor ranked his present visitant.

Upon their entrance into a bleak damp hall, paved with red bricks, and enlightened by a window, which appeared by its form to have belonged to some consecrated place, Mr. Manly perceived two cross-legged taylors seated on a long brown table, turning the justice's sessions coat, and roaring out, "I wish I may die if I do;" then casting his eyes over the chimney, he observed a piece of sign-post painting, which he desired the justice to explain the design of, for though he was a connoisseur in painting, and well read in sacred history, he was not able to discern in it a representati-

on of Jephtha's vow, till Moody, pointing to the picture, said, "There, 'squire, there's a pattern of a dutiful child; nobody never heard of her making a fuss about being obedient, but she did as she was bid; there's no such daughters now-a-days."

Mr. Manly answered he hoped no father would desire to put his child's duty to such a test. The sight of Miss Moody, who now came into the hall to receive him, prevented him from pursuing this topic, and he attended her into a little parlour hung with tapestry, and so dark, from the ivy that obscured the only window in it, that he could scarcely discern the furniture, which remained in the same situation and form, under various revolutions of state.

After tea, the justice invited him into the stable, to see Bright Sorrel, on whose qualifications he harangued for some time, and declared an affection for him next to  
his

his daughter. Mr. Manly would willingly have postponed this visit till the morning, but he could not resist the importunities of his host, and therefore went with him, and patiently attended to a detail of surprising exploits the old gentleman had been enabled to perform, by the assistance of this creature; such as leaping five-barred gates, and unfathomable ditches, in pursuit of a fox through several counties. From the stable he followed his leader into a large over-grown garden, where the figures of several eminent personages of antiquity flourished in perpetual verdure: but for want of skill or neglect in the gardener, were sprouted out of their original form; insomuch that Lucretia's arm was branched out, and seemed in a friendly manner to be interwoven with Tarquin's. In the midst of a turf plat, surrounded by these ever-greens, stood an old statue of Hercules, though his club seemed greatly dimi-

diminished, and he was painted green, to the no small astonishment of the stranger.

The justice perceiving he was more intent in surveying this monstrous ornament than the others, said to him, “Aye, ’squire, that thing has been ~~fixt~~ in this spot I warrant you these hundred years; it was sadly out of kilter when I came to the estate, but I got my neighbour the constable, who is a carpenter, to make him that right arm, and put the staff into it, for I could not bear to see such a clumsy log as he had in it before; then I had the glazier to colour it, to make it uniform, and like the box.”

Mr. Manly finding a speech was expected from him upon the occasion, suppressed a smile and replied, “I observe, sir, a surprising uniformity in your house and garden.”



Having taken a survey of these curiosities, they entered a little yard, paved with pebbles, placed in the form of letters, and containing many sentences extracted from holy writ, which the justice said were pitched by a puritannical uncle of his father's, in Cromwell's time; the words appeared from bad spelling, and mutilation, to have suffered no less than the original text had, by the exposition of the party that had placed them there.

Mr. Moody observing his visitant gravely perusing the works of his ancestor, told him, he hoped he did not think he had any of his uncle's blood in his veins, for if he did he was out; adding, " I never could abide your Presbyterians, because I understood, from Sir Richard Baker, they were always against the landed interest. I would have dug up these fancies a long time ago, but it was my father's desire  
they

they should remain for ever; however I once kept a fox here, and he has picked out some of the words, and turned the texts topsy-turvy, that I count, he has made a kind of nonsense of them. Now, 'squire, if you please, I'll shew you my cellars, for you may ride a white horse black, before you find better stowage for drink."

Mr. Manly replied, he was obliged to him, but must beg leave to defer that trip to another opportunity, declaring he was weary. He was then, by ascending an high threshold, let into an entry, that had a communication with the kitchen; he stopped short to remark a horse-shoe nailed, the meaning of which he asked; the old gentleman shook his head, and answered, "It i'n't fixt there for nothing, I promise you."

From the time of Mr. Manly's arrival, the justice had been so engaged in shewing him what he esteemed curious at the Sullens, that he had not been at leisure to mention the occasion of his invitation; but, upon their return to the parlour, he gave his daughter to understand that she must quit the room. A large bowl of punch, a bottle of port, and a tankard of beer being placed upon the table, he entered into conversation with his guest concerning Miss Moody.

“ Mr. Manly,” said he, shaking him by the hand, “ you are kindly welcome to the Sullens; I look upon you, by your talk, to be one that knows the ways of the world, and none of your hare-um scare-um gentry, therefore I should be glad of your counsel. You have seen my dwelling, which with nigh four hundred a year that lies all in a hedge, I purpose to leave to my  
daugh-

daughter at my decease, that is, if she will be dutiful, and marry he I have fixed upon for her; there's a matter of 200*l.* a year, in land, that his uncle left him, that borders upon my estate, and 'tis a pity they should not be joined; that, indeed, is the main reason that I am so hot upon Mr. Timothy; for you know it would be convenient. And then, for matter of the parties liking one another, that's neither here nor there, if they should happen to differ after they are married, their estates will agree, and a fat sorrow is better than a lean one. For was the girl to follow her own head, and marry the pothecary, they may fall out sometimes, and she would not have no portion to comfort her. Now I don't care to say a great deal to her afore her sweetheart comes, because she may blubber her eyes out, and fright the lad; but I should be much beholden to you, if you will give her a little good counsel, and tell her the sin of being obstinate, and having her own will;

you can put it into better words than I can."

Mr. Manly said, he was obliged to him for his good opinion, and would gladly do any thing in his power to promote concord; but, as the young lady had fixed her affections on a person of good character, and a gentleman that wanted only a few of Mr. Hardy's acres to render himself agreeable to any parent, the task he enjoined him to perform was very disagreeable, and quite against his own opinion; however, he would undertake to represent to the young lady, his desire, and the duty incumbent on a child in such a case, which he thought extended no farther than rejecting an alliance with a person they could not approve, but could not reach to the acceptance of any one, for whom she had an invincible dislike, merely to gratify the will of those who had only mercenary views in their proposals: therefore he  
thought

thought if he could engage her promise never to marry against his consent, he ought to be content with the sacrifice of her inclinations, and not endeavour to force her to accept any other.

He expatiated largely on the cruelty of condemning a young woman for life to the company and conversation of a man she could not esteem, and gave many instances of the ill consequences attending such a procedure.

The old gentleman did not relish this discourse, and after a long pause, he said, " I don't understand all your talk ; but if Rose should be such a fool as to refuse Mr. Timothy, I shall never look upon her, unless she will consent to be wholly directed by me in the choice of another, for I am set against the pothecary."



Mr. Manly then asked if Miss Moody had any acquaintance with Mr. Hardy.

The justice replied, “ Acquaintance ! no, not she, but she knows his friends, and that’s all the same ; he has not lived in these parts since he was a lad, for his uncle, the captain, took him away when he was about ten years of age, and brought him up ; and as he used the sea, he sent him aboard ships when he was very young. And when he came home after the voyage, he kept along with him at Deptford, and so seldom came to his father’s, that I should not know him myself, if I were to see him ; but that’s nothing, I know his land.”

“ Perhaps, then, as the gentleman is a stranger, the young lady may not be averse from him, upon acquaintance ; we cannot tell how far his pleading may prevail, let

us wait the event of an interview between them. When is he expected?"

"To-morrow; his father has invited you and I to dinner with him; the stage coach is to set him down about four miles off, and the squire is to send horses to meet him."

The presence of Miss Moody, and the appearance of supper, put an end to this conversation for the night. Mr. Manly begged leave to retire early, and the justice waited on him into a spacious chamber, the oaken floor of which had been so carefully rubbed, that he made but one step from the entrance to the upper end of the room, gliding along till he fell prostrate before the portrait of the Emperor Trajan, which was placed next to that of St. Paul.

Being assisted by his guest, and his servant, he regained his legs, and, having

bestowed a curse upon the maid, withdrew, and left Mr. Manly to take a view of the twelve Cæsars, and as many Apostles, which were promiscuously ranged around the room, and seemed not only to agree very amicably, but by the painter's art to be of a family.

As a further survey of this apartment might keep him too long from his repose, and contribute more than we would desire to the reader's, we will close this chapter.

C H A P.

## CHAP. XIV.

*A Visit to a neighbouring Squire.*

IN the morning when Mr. Manly came down to breakfast, he found Miss Moody seated at a tea-table to receive him, and her father at another, with a gammon of bacon before him, and a tankard of ale; whilst they were at breakfast, the justice was called out of the room upon business, and Mr. Manly took that occasion to tell the young lady, in a jocular manner, she seemed rather too much dejected for a lady who was in expectation of seeing her lover. She blushed, and a silent tear gilding down her cheek, awakened the compassion of the gentleman, who heartily pitied the situation of her mind at that juncture. He told her, Mr. Moody had acquainted him with his intentions of bestowing her on

Mr. Hardy, and asked if she had any reasonable objection to a compliance with his desire.

She replied, "I am sincerely concerned, it is not in my power, sir, to oblige my papa, in this, as I would willingly do in every respect, without entailing misery upon myself; but so it is, though I have nothing more to alledge against Mr. Hardy, than any other gentleman, who is equally unknown to me, I cannot support the thought of entering into so solemn an engagement with one, whilst my heart is prepossessed in favour of another."

She then confessed the preference Mr. Lee had in her esteem, and pleaded the reciprocal affection that had subsisted between them for near two years, as an excuse against consenting to the match proposed. In the account she gave of her  
first

first acquaintance with that gentleman, she said her aunt Severn, at whose house she first saw him, was so far from discouraging the affair, that she from her knowledge of his character and family, had endeavoured to persuade her father to hear his suit.

Mr. Manly said that was the best plea she could have for encouraging his addresses, yet desired her to reflect on the consequences of indulging a passion which was indeed no otherwise faulty, but in the want of a parent's sanction; and asked her, how she proposed to defray the expences attending a married state, without a fortune adequate to them.

“ Oh, Sir,” answered she “ you cannot imagine how many anxious hours my papa's aversion to Mr. Lee has given me; I have endeavoured to erase every favourable idea of him from my mind, sensible



as I am of his merit, and the sincerity of his affection to me; and after all, I cannot but esteem him beyond all mankind; yet, I am firmly resolved, never to be his wife without my papa's consent; and only desire to be at liberty to remain as I am, and not be forced into a state in which I am afraid I shall never be able to perform my duty. I assure you, sir, I was not so imprudent as to think of involving him and myself in such difficulties, as must attend a match without a competency, but I was not without hopes, if my papa could be brought to hear what Mr. Lee could say for himself, and was acquainted with him, he would one time or other be prevailed upon to part with an equivalent to what his aunt left him; and that with œconomy would have been sufficient."

To this Mr. Manly replied, " There appears something so ingenuous in your behaviour,

behaviour, ma'am, that if you can strictly adhere to the resolution you have taken, and not marry till you have obtained Mr. Moody's consent, I will endeavour to persuade him from urging you to a disagreeable union; but, that there may appear no obstinacy in refusing to see the person he recommends, I must insist on your receiving a visit from Mr. Hardy."

She was extremely thankful for his kind interposition in her favour, and renewed the promise she had made, of waiting for her father's approbation. He then added to her satisfaction, by informing her of his acquaintance with her favourite lover, though he did not let her know Mr. Lee had any knowledge of his designs in his favour, or that their intimacy was occasioned by any other means, but the protection he had afforded Miss Murrells, whose adventures, since she  
travelled

travelled with her, he gave her an account of.

This conversation afforded Miss Moody a greater degree of ease, than she had experienced since the discovery of her attachment to Mr. Lee; she was about to express the pleasure she received from it, when the return of her father prevented her, who came to tell Mr. Manly the chariot was ready to carry them to the squire's. Mr. Hardy was equipped to receive them, in an olive drab coat, with long skirts and gold buttons, in which he had made a figure at the assizes for the two last sessions of parliament, a black velvet waistcoat of the same date, and a long wig of a much more ancient one.

After the first salutations, he told Mr. Manly as he came from London, and was a parliament-man, he hoped he could tell him a little what the folks above were doing;

doing; “for,” continued he, “by some conversation I had at the bowling-green with Sir Revel Rattle’s bailiff, I find there’s a dogged many taxes talked on; and I don’t rightly understand how matters go in the North; but I doubt, not to their liking; for he wished me to join in a new association, but I thanked him for that; no, I wont to be catched so; no, I am one of your wary ones, I wont be cheated, and trapt, I can tell him that; if there should be another rebellion, ’tis time enough to set my hand when it breaks out, and when I know which way matters will go.”

“I don’t know, said Manly, we have any occasion to fear one, or of any association, but that which some gentleman have entered into, under pretence of carrying on prosecutions against those who infringe the game act.”

“Oh

“ Oh, say you so, answered the squire, that's quite and clean another case; if he had let me into the light on't, I should not have been so backward; no, I would willingly part from some pounds to bring such malefactors to law. 'Twas but last week, I went to the hall farm, to speak to the churchwarden that holds it, about putting out Grace Polly's bastard; and when I came there, he seemed loth to let me go into the kitchen, but truly would have carried me into his parlour, but I thanked him for that; no, no, I smelt a rat, so I went into the house, and up to the fire, where I found a partridge roasting; it made my blood rise, for I had not had above 20 braces this season, and now I perceive the reason of the scarcity. He told me his dog killed it by chance, and he was dressing it for his son's dinner, who was in a consumption, and could not eat every thing; but this was a saucy pre-  
tence.



tence, the lad might have had a dumpling, and more fit for him. I would have caned the poaching rascal, if he had not been as stout a boxer as any in the county; however I gave him his own, and told him, if ever he had such a thing in his house again, I would prosecute him according to law."

Mr. Manly said, "there I think, sir, you were a little too severe; I am far from vindicating poaching, but a bird killed in the manner you mention, by an honest farmer at whose expence it has been fed, ought not in equity, whatever it is in the rigour of the law, to be deemed such a trespass. I assure you I have too great a reverence for the laws of the land, to countenance the breach of the most trivial; yet I cannot but own, in such a case, I should not have thought it any deviation from justice to have suffered it



it to pass unheeded. Indeed all prosecutions of that nature, appear to me to proceed rather from a selfish regard to our own pleasure, than from any particular respect to justice; why else, should not associations be entered into, to prosecute the vices and immorality of the age, which tend not only to the subversion of human, but divine laws.

“ I remember a few years since, an affair of this sort happening in the neighbourhood, where part of my estate lies; the head man of the village, who was a notorious wretch, and every day guilty of crimes that deserved the gallows, abused a worthy farmer, for picking up a bird, in the manner your churchwarden did. The man very patiently attended to all the ill language the gentleman (for that title he claimed from his estate) thought proper to bestow upon him, and carefully noted the oaths he had uttered;  
the

the farmer was carried before a neighbouring magistrate, where he confessed the fact, and paid the penalty; and then immediately informed against his antagonist for the breach he had made with his tongue, and the gentleman was obliged to pay him a much larger fine, upon that account, than defrayed his expences, and at the same time afforded greater relief to the poor of the parish, than they would ever voluntarily have experienced from him."

This story effectually silenced the shallow squire upon that head, who looked upon the relater rather with awe, than admiration. After dinner he took the justice aside and told him, he wished the Londoner was not a Presbyterian, or a Roman, for he did not talk like a Church of England man.

Moody

Moody replied, " I am certain by the discourse I had within the stone yard he don't chime in with Oliver Cromwell, but I can't say that he an't a Papish, for I understand he lived some years, at the place where the Pope keeps; but nevertheless I believe he is an honest man at the bottom, and has great riches."

At the conclusion of their conference they agreed to put some questions to him concerning religion, in order to discover his sentiments. In pursuance of this scheme, Mr. Moody asked him many questions relating to what he had observed in his travels beyond sea, (as he expressed himself) and for fear of offending him spoke with such veneration of the Pope, and the opinions of the Romish Church, as greatly alarmed Mr. Manly, who began to fear he had been tampered with by the jesuitical emissaries, with which it is said this nation abounds, and  
had

had imbibed too favourable notions of that community. He therefore took this opportunity to expatiate on the many absurdities and superstitions of it, and gave it as his opinion, that the Protestant religion, as established by law in this kingdom, was the purest, most rational, and the freest from error, of any in the world.

The gentlemen were upon this topic, when the door opened, and a person entered whose name I will not reveal in this chapter; but confess, as the reader is not unacquainted with it, I am not willing to deprive him of so fashionable an amusement as betting, which he has now a fair opportunity of doing, with any of his audience, concerning the identity of this gentleman.

## C H A P. XV.

*Description of the Person arrived at  
Mr. Hardy's.*

THE person who entered the squire's parlour, and whom we forbore to describe, for a reason given in the conclusion of the preceeding chapter, was a short thick-set young man, with a broad flat face, and a complexion much injured by the sun, habited in a blue frock, the skirts of which were perfectly modish, and reached about half way of his nankeen breeches; a black cut wig, a red silk handkerchief tied round his neck, with the ends sticking out on each side his cheeks, as if to vie with them in colour; —a large patch of brown paper over his left eye,—a hanger fastened with a buff belt, that banged against his buskins. This figure moved up to the squire, and taking him by the hand, cried “What cheer, father.”

The

The old gentleman returned this salutation with a blessing, and a cordial embrace, then presented him to his guests, saying, "This gentleman is my son Tim."

Having received the congratulations of the company, on his safe return, he drew a chair, and accosted the squire in the following manner, "So, father, I see you are stationed just as I left you, but where's brother; the squire answered, he is well, and would have been here to have met you, but his wife is ill to day, and he could not leave her."

Well, returned the sailor, "Alls one, another time will serve; and how does all our friends?"

"All in health, but my poor brother Ralph, and he is laid low, as I sent you word."



“ Yes, yes; so you did, mefs! I am forry for him; he is gone a long voyage, but I hope he had a good paſſage. Where’s my old ſchoolmate, Nick Chance?”

“ Ah! poor lad, he was unlucky; he loſt all his money with keeping company with bad women, and playing at cards, and the dies; and then he took to bad courſes, and drowned himſelf at the mill.”

“ Meſs! ſince he had ſuch a fancy for the water, he better have gone along with me; I could have got him a birth on board the Reformation.”

The ſquire now began to enquire the reaſon of his wearing the brown paper on his face; he answered, “ I had like to have turned keel upwards, for ſteering to the leeward of Squire Horner’s, I fell  
over

over the bowsprit of my horse, so I was fain to tarry a good spell at the anchor, (for I would not stop at the hare and hounds) where my landlady got me this dab to swage the bump a little, but now if you see fitting I should be glad of a plaister."

The squire was going to touch the bell when the tar set up a whistle that brought a servant, and put the dogs into a full cry; in the midst of this din, which was increased by the vociferations of the justice and squire, his wound was dressed by the housekeeper, whom he chucked under the chin, and said she looked Dutch built.

Mr. Manly had not uttered a syllable, from the time Tim and his father entered into conversation; but now finding they were silent, he applied to the former for information concerning the proceed-

ings of the French and us in the East-Indies? to which he replied, “they are always a squabbling, but I doubt the Mounseers are like to come by the worst on’t.”

His father asked what he had brought home; he answered, “I have landed a puncheon of as fine arrack, as ever was pierced; I had it in Batavia, in the way of traffick for a negro girl: ’tis in the custom house till the duty is paid. And I have got a punch-bowl, that you may swim in, and a little tea, and a fan, with a piece of dimity for brother’s wife.”

“That’s kind in you, Tim, but you had better keep them for a wife of your own: I have one in my eye for you; what say you to a pretty tight lass, that’s worth her weight in gold.”

“Thank

“Thank ye, father, no, not at present, I an’t minded to marry at this time; I am set upon making another voyage or two, afore I cast anchor for life. A wife is very fitting for a landsman, that is a housekeeper; for though he keeps ever so good look out himself, he can’t always be home bound, and his concerns may run a drift for want of a wife to sit at helm; but for us free sailors, d’ye see, that roam about from port to port, I see no reason why we should be shackled. Besides if so be I were so minded, I have no need of a pilot to direct me what course to steer; an I pitch upon a young woman, I shan’t mind her rigging, if her heart be but sound and honest, seeing I have gold enough to put her into what trim I like.”

The squire looked somewhat confounded at this speech, and the justice appeared no less disappointed; whilst Mr. Manly secretly rejoiced at a declaration which

he hoped would facilitate his generous scheme. Mr. Hardy unwilling to carry on a further conversation on this subject, least Tim should incur the displeasure of the justice, put the glass about pretty freely, and ordered a fresh bowl of punch to be made of some rum, which he received that morning, assuring his guests, it was right Jamaica, and the best that ever was tipt over tongue.

Upon the appearance of this extraordinary liquor, Tim filled a glass, but no sooner had he put it to his mouth, than he emptied it upon the floor, saying, "Sflesh, father! is this the liquor you bragged on? mafs! 'tin't worth fixpence a gallon; 'tis fitting for nothing but be thrown into the channel."

"Say you so son? then I am finely hope up with my bargain; the whose-bud I bought it of, gave me a taste, and to  
my

my thinking, I never drank such a dram in my life; so I bid him send in an anchor, for which I paid him four pound, and thought it dog cheap; a rascal! he has taken twenty pounds in a year of me; but if he has choused me he shall never touch a penny more of my money."

"I'd lay a pound, said the justice, you had it of old Whimper, the smuggler; I used to deal with him till I found he imposed upon me, and sold me colossus spirits for French brandy."

"You are in the right, that was the very man."

"Then, father, you are well enough served, for putting your ventures on such false bottoms; your smugglers an't a bit better than your pirates."

Mr. Manly seconded him, and inveighed against the encouragement given to



such a set of pernicious miscreants, who he said were not only an hindrance to the fair trader, but frequently the invaders of private property, - as the many robberies some of them have been convicted of, could evidence; and he thought having any commerce with such people, was very inconsistent, with warm expressions of regard for the good of our country, since it was very certain they had been accused of holding intelligence with our enemies in time of war; and even in peace, the running of wool, which was the staple commodity of the nation, and has been of the greatest detriment to it."

Mr. Manly continued this topic some time longer, when the justice ordered the chariot; but before he departed, took the squire aside, and invited him to bring his son to the Sullens, on the morrow.

Mr.

Mr. Hardy replied "I give you thanks, but I think it will be better to tarry till the day after, for by that time Tim's face may be well, and he will be able to unpack his bettermost cloaths." Upon this the justice and Mr. Manly bad him adieu.

During this little journey, the former addressed the latter, with, "Well, squire! what think you of the young spark?" and without waiting for a reply, continued, "I am half afraid by what he said he may have a fancy to follow his uncle's example, and die a batchellor; what do think pray?"

"Mr. Manly answered, from so short an acquaintance, I cannot form an opinion of his real sentiments, but from those he uttered am inclined to think he will not prove a very desperate lover."

Upon their arrival at the Sullens, Mr. Manly retired to bed, extremely disgusted with the society, in which he had passed the day; and which no inducement, but the hopes of being serviceable to a young creature of Miss Moody's merit, could have occasioned his ever entering into again.

CHAP.

## C H A P. XVI.

*A Clergyman makes his Appearance.*

NEXT morning, Mr. Doughty, the rector of the parish, came to desire the justice would exert his authority in suppressing a riotous rabble, that surrounded dame Limper's house, and were going to force her to the river in order to swim her for a witch. "I have refused the church bible (continued he) which they demanded to weigh her against, and have used all the arguments I am master of to induce them to leave the poor old soul unmolested, but to no purpose."

"I know, Mr. Doughty, (replied the justice) you are a peaceable man, and don't like to encourage feuds in the parish; but I must say, dame Limper is an odd kind of a woman; I don't care to say positively that she is a witch, because

H 6

a body

a body would not like to lie under her power; but, however, if she is not, it can do no harm to try her."

"No harm, sir! do you think it no harm to endanger the life of a human creature, by making such an absurd experiment, purely to gratify the malice of a parcel of ignorant fools, who have nothing to alledge against her, but that age and infirmities have rendered her burthensome to the parish? for, as to the silly legends they tell of her, they can never be credited by any person of common sense and humanity."

"As silly as you seem to think them, parson," returned the justice, "there is very unaccountable stories of her, and every body is not bound to give them the lie; but you have not heard all that I know, so I'll tell you one, and then you may pass a better judgement upon her. As I was riding

siding home; after the last election for knights of the shire; I overtook this woman, picking up sticks by Gosling's farm; my horse shyed, which I did not much matter, till I 'spied her; then I must say I dreamt bad measure; and, being in a heat, I huffed her, and she fell a muttering to herself; I told her, it was like indeed she should be so lame as she made believe, and yet could stray so far from home; whereupon she said, "I am lame, an like your worship, and 'tis well if you ar'nt forced to use a crutch, as well as I before a quarter's at an end." They were her very words, and as true as I'm alive, in less than ten days I was taken with a fit of the gout, and walked with a crutch for a month after; what think you of her now?"

"Really," said Mr. Manly, "if you would permit me to give my opinion, I should have thought it required no supernatural assistance to prognosticate the consequences



sequences of a parliamentary scheme, and must own I am an infidel with regard to the idle legends of this sort, with which almost every village abounds." He then reminded the justice of the recent affair of this nature at Tring, and advised him to stop the proceedings of the mob, if it was only to prevent the like mischief ensuing.

This last argument was of such weight with the justice, (who said it was a pity any of his honest neighbours should be hanged about such a haradan) that he complied with Mr. Doughty's desire, who immediately, backed with his authority, and proper officers, flew to the relief of the decrepid old woman, and rescued her from the enraged mob, who dispersed upon hearing the riot act read. This done, he returned, according to an invitation the justice had given him, to dine with Mr. Manly, to whom the conversation of this worthy divine was much more agreeable than  
any

any he had been engaged in since he left town.

After dinner the justice asked the clergyman, what was become of the lady that was at his house two years ago? He replied, "I had the pleasure of seeing her lately, and she was well."

"Pray, what made her keep herself so moped up, that a body could never see her? I have had a fancy to ask you a long time, but it always went out of my head; my daughter said she seemed a good kind of a woman, only a little melancholy, and did not much care for strange company."

"The dejection she was under was owing to such a cause, sir, as deserved commiseration, and as she was conscious she could not conceal it from company, chose solitude. But, since she left me, she has a better relish for society."

"Mayhap,

“ Mayhap, then, she has met with some good luck that she did not expect.”

“ If you please, sir, I will give you an account of the fortune she has met with.”

“ Do so, do so, and I shall be obligated to you.” Mr. Manly joining in this request, the clergyman began his narrative.

CHAP.

## CHAP. XVII.

*Contains an History.*

“ **T**HAT lady, sir, was the only child of a gentleman of large fortune, and left an orphan, with an estate surpassing most in the county where she was born, to the care of a worthy guardian, who gave her a polite education, and cultivated the good understanding which she inherited with all possible care. The fame of her accomplishments and fortune, brought her admirers from all parts of the kingdom, but she declined wedlock, till she arrived at that age when the laws of the land put her in possession of her whole estate, and then received the addresses of a gentleman, who was recommended by her guardian, of good character, polite conversation, and equivalent fortune. And after an acquaintance of some months, married

ried him. Their affection appeared to be reciprocal, and neither could accuse the other of the least unkind expression or action for more than a year.

“In this peaceable manner they remained, till one day, her husband having invited some friends to dine with him, received a letter, which he had no sooner perused, than he said, he was obliged to go out for a few hours, upon an affair of some moment, and if he should not be able to dispatch it time enough to meet his company, begged she would entertain them. Accordingly, when his friends arrived, she apologized for his absence at dinner, but hoped he would join them in the evening. They waited till nine o’clock, and he not appearing, bad her adieu, and she sat up till two in the morning, in expectation of his return, and began to grow extremely apprehensive, as he went out unattended, that some mischance had befallen him.

“Her

“ Her uneasiness continuing to encrease, she dispatched messengers to all parts of the town, (for they were in London) where she could think he might be, but all of them returning without being able to gain any intelligence of him, augmented her anxiety, and she remained near a week in this uncertainty and perplexity, when she received a letter from him, dated from no place, the contents of which, at any other time, would have shocked her more than at this juncture, when the dreadful apprehensions that some very horrid misfortune had happened to him, had put her into such agitations, that she was not so strongly affected with what more immediately regarded herself.

“ He told her in this letter, he hoped she was mistress of a sufficient stock of philosophy to bear a disappointment; and, in short, after a slight preface, which contained no apology for his behaviour, said,

as



as she had hitherto been an obedient wife, he expected she should conform to his pleasure, and be content to live apart from him for the future, without troubling herself about the course he should pursue, since all enquiries after him would be as fruitless as any attempt to alter the resolution he had made of passing his life as free as if he had never been engaged in the marriage bonds, which he found too heavy to endure; at the same time, he acknowledged, he had nothing to alledge against her more than being his wife, protesting if he had never married, he should have continued her passionate lover; but, as the case was, he could not bear constraint, and advised her to reside with some friend that was agreeable to her, and forget there was ever such a person as himself. He reminded her of the regard she had always expressed for her reputation, which this was the most likely method of preserving; and after giving her an assurance that she should

have

have the interest of her fortune punctually transmitted to her, for her own use at any place she would please to appoint, by a line addressed to Z. X. at Will's coffee-house, where he would order his agent to receive it; he concluded, with wishing this separation might be as agreeable to her inclinations as to his."

"I never heard the like!" said the justice, "Well, what followed? I hope she was not such a fool as to vex herself about him, since he allowed her her portion."

"On receipt of this astonishing epistle, she communicated the contents to a near friend and relation, who sincerely sympathized with her in her affliction, and advised her to observe his directions, in hopes, by such a compliance, to make him sensible of his error. Accordingly, she went down into a distant country, with her family, where she lived in a very retired manner,

ner, giving no one information of her place of residence but her husband, in the manner he prescribed. She received her allowance duly, and all she could save, after defraying her necessary expences, she appropriated to charitable uses, as an atonement for some crime, which, she said, she feared she had inadvertantly committed, to provoke Heaven to punish her, by depriving her of the affections of an husband she esteemed with the greatest degree of sincerity.

“ When she had lived a recluse life many years, the lady in whose family she resided, came upon business into this neighbourhood, and brought her with her; where she heard of my wife, who having been her school-fellow, and very intimate with her in her younger years, she wrote to, and expressed a great inclination to see; upon which we gave her an invitation to our house, but could not prevail with

with her to accept it, till we made a promise, that she should be as retired as she pleased; by this assurance we obtained her company for a month, in which time I discovered such a fund of piety, good sense, and good nature, in her composition, as increased my wonder at, and detestation of, the treatment she had met with.

“ Not long after she left us she received a letter from her husband, indited in the most penitential and affectionate manner, soliciting her return to him, who was not only ready to receive her, with a true sense of her extraordinary merit, but should esteem her pardon of the transgression he had been guilty of, as an obligation of the highest kind; and promising the whole tenor of his future conduct should testify the sincerity of his intentions, and the ardent affection he had for her.

“ This

“ This epistle she communicated to her friend, who at first would have dissuaded her from a compliance with his request; but she telling her she had never been guilty of the breach of any duty to him, said, she was determined to obey his present injunctions, and set out immediately for town, where he being apprized of her design, was prepared to receive her.

“ At their first interview, a flood of tears flowed mutually, and prevented them from speaking, when the consciousness of her worth, and his own behaviour, so overcame him, that he flung himself into a chair, the tears streaming from his eyes. She apprehending the occasion of his taciturnity, instead of upbraiding him with his fault, went to him, and, throwing her arms around his neck, vented thanks to Heaven for his safety; which caused him to break forth into many invectives against his

his own wickedness and folly, in deserting so amiable a companion.

This meeting happened two years ago, since which they have lived in an uninterrupted state of harmony. He has told her, that the company of a set of rakes, with whom he was acquainted, influenced his actions, and their instigations, joined to the insinuations of an artful, abandoned woman, into whose company they introduced him, gave him a disrelish to the married state, which these libertines represented as a thralldom unbecoming a lord of the creation to submit to.

“ He owned, their rallery occasioned him to leave her, and the kingdom, and to take his mistress with him, whose loose and extravagant behaviour soon made him repent of the exchange; and that whilst he was in Italy, he was perpetually



engaged in quarrels, which her conduct occasioned, and so intimidated by her threatnings of sending him out of the world, upon the least contradiction of her humour; that, though she was become his aversion, he was obliged to comply with all her desires; till at last, being unable to support the weight of his own conscience, that was continually accusing him of the villainy he was guilty of, he was induced to follow the dictates of that unerring monitor, and wrote a letter to a sensible friend in England, with whom he had held no correspondence since his attachment to this vile woman, in which he made a frank confession of the situation of his mind, and the remorse he felt for the crime he had been guilty of, to the most deserving of wives.

“ This friend, on receipt of the letter, went over to encourage him to prosecute the laudable scheme he proposed, in order  
to

to rid himself of the wretch that had occasioned his defection from his wife. On his arrival, he told him, if his contrition was sincere, and the professions he had made to repair by a suitable conduct for the future, the injury his lady had sustained, he did not doubt, but he could bring about a reconciliation between them. This he feared was impracticable, though he assured his friend there was nothing he more ardently desired, than a re-union with that amiable creature; and whether he succeeded or not, in his applications for her pardon, he was resolved to abandon his mistress, with whom he knew not how to hold a conference upon that theme, and therefore desired, this friend to inform her of his intentions, and to give her five hundred pounds in notes, that she might not be induced by poverty to continue in that way of life.

“ The gentleman performed his request; and was quite regardless of the rage which his news put her into, or the opprobrious language with which she insulted him. At their parting, she desired him to tell the fool that sent him upon this errand, if she could have obtained the purse he had now given her by any other means, he should not have been incommoded with her company many days, for she would have embarked with his valet, who was much the most agreeable man, for another part of the world. So ended this affair, with which his lady has too much good sense and humanity to reproach him; on the contrary, she takes every opportunity of expressing her sensibility of his present obliging behaviour.”

When Mr. Doughty had finished his narrative, the justice cried out, “ A clever woman! I’ll warrant her; she need not have been ashamed to have shown  
her

her face; I wish Rose had been better acquainted with her, for she could have learnt her obedience."

Mr. Manly expressed great approbation of the lady's, prudent conduct, and breathed many hearty wishes for a continuance of her happiness. The clergyman was now called home to receive a gentleman who he was informed was just arrived at his house. He quitted the justice, with a promise of returning to spend the evening.

## CHAP. XVIII.

*Account of Mr. Doughty's Visitor.*

ON Mr. Doughty's return to the Sul-  
lens, the justice desired to know,  
who had called him away; he replied,  
Mr. Ricks' "ho! ho! said Moody, he  
is a bridegroom, I understand, did not  
you joy him? for he has got a widow with  
a power of money."

"I congratulated him on his alliance  
with a very ingenious woman; but her  
fortune was not such as the world report-  
ed." "How so?" I thought her spouse,  
had left her a mort." "Most people ima-  
gined he had been very liberal to her, and it  
was not till some time after she became  
Mr Ricks's wife, that he was acquainted  
with her real circumstances." "Why that's  
strange; she must be very cunning to  
deceive

deceive him; he is a wary kind of a man, I am certain, for I have had dealings with him; he once bought a mare of me, and I am sure he made as hard a bargain as any man, that 'tis much he should be cheated in a wife."

"The case" was thus," returned the clergyman, "Mrs. Ricks, brought a very good fortune to her first husband, who had more wit than prudence, and she, having a greater propensity, to gaiety than œconomy, they together lavished it away. In his last illness he lamented this dissipation, and declared he knew not how she could subsist, as the post he held during life, had no pension annexed to it. She told him it was in vain to bewail what was past re-call, and she should be perfectly content, if he would make a will, and bequeath ten thousand pounds to her. He, with great surprize at the request, replied, he had not so many shil-



things to dispose of; she said that was nothing to the purpose, and only entreated him to oblige her in this particular; accordingly, after many persuasions, he made a formal will, in which he bequeathed her the full sum she desired, and made her sole executrix; she administered to this will, which was proved in due form. And then put off her house in the country, and went to London.

“ The report of her fortune, was presently spread throughout the county, and reached Mr. Ricks’s ears, who was always her admirer, but would never have pretended to her, had he imagined it to have been less than the world gave it out. He followed her to town, and made his addresses, as early as decency would permit; she knowing his estate to be very considerable, was not averse from his proposals. However, she told him, she feared he was not acquainted with the circum-

circumstances, in which her husband left her; declaring they were not equal, to common report, or what he might expect.

“ This declaration he imputed to her modesty, having been at the trouble to procure a sight of the will, before he made his offers; and being from that fully persuaded she had the money therein specified, made many protestations of a passionate regard for her, exclusive of mercenary views, and pressed her to accept him immediately; he was so importunate, that after a few visits, in which she had always assured him, her fortune fell short of every body's expectations, she at last told him, if he had such an affection for her as he professed, and would take her with the trifling sum she was mistress of, she would have the gratitude to make him a good wife; positively declaring there was no credit to be given to public rumour.

“ All these declarations were not sufficient to convince him that he was mistaken; and conjecturing that they were designed only to try whether his attachment was not rather to her fortune than person, he affected to believe her; and told her, he had indeed heard that she was possessed of three or four thousand pounds, (being willing to under-rate what he had seen in the will, least she should imagine, he had had the curiosity to enquire so narrowly) but if report had exaggerated, his estate was sufficient.”

She smiling, answered, “ I wish you may not repent, for I find you have been misinformed; but, however, if you have generosity enough to marry me, after what I have told you, I am ready to accept your offer. Accordingly they were married privately in town,

“ Some

“ Some weeks passed on, before he mentioned the contents of her late husband’s will, expecting every day she would inform him where the money was lodged; but finding her silent upon that head, he made enquiry after it. She answered she had no such sum, and that she had often told him he was not to expect any thing with her. He said she had no occasion to carry on the deception any longer, declaring he had consulted her husband’s will, and from that was acquainted with her circumstances.

“ Upon this she frankly confessed how the affair was, saying, she was as much obliged to her former husband, as if he could have bestowed such a fortune upon her, since the report of it, had induced him to make choice of her. “ I shall ever acknowledge myself indebted to your generosity, continued she, and will endeavour by œconomy to preserve your  
 I 6                      estate;

estate; and, perhaps I may be enabled to add to it, by a proper use of what I acquired at the expence of a much larger."

"What a shame, did she mean?" cry'd the justice.

"Experience, answered Mr. Dough-ty," "She told Mr. Ricks she was too well convinced of the fatal effects of extravagance, to pursue such a course for the future; and if he had that disinterested regard, which he professed for her, she should esteem herself more fortunate, than if she had ten thousand pounds really in her possession."

"Good lack, I never heard of such a gipsy! what said her spouse to her serving him such a trick?"

"I believe, he was ashamed, after the many declarations he had made, to own his disappointment; and as he was sensible  
the



the knot he had tied could not be dissolved, and she was a woman of good nature, and had many amiable qualifications, he never appeared the least chagrined at her confession. I must own, I cannot applaud her artifice, though I think the mercenary motive that induced him to marry her well merited such a return."

Whilst they were discoursing on this affair, Mr. Doughty received a post letter, which he informed the company came from a young gentleman, who had resided some years abroad, and was formerly his pupil, when he kept a private academy near London. "He acquaints me, continued he, with his intentions of being in town soon, which gives me great pleasure, as I have long regretted his absence."

Mr. Manly upon this said, he imagined he would be in town to meet him, and  
gave



gave Mr. Doughty an invitation to his house, if he came, for which he received a compliment from the clergyman, with a promise of spending one day with him if he went. And then bad him and the justice adieu.

## C H A P.

## C H A P. XIX.

*An Interview between Mr. Timothy  
and Miss Moody:*

MR. Manly took the opportunity of the justice's attending Mr. Dougherty to the gate, to give Miss Moody notice of the company her father expected next day, and told her, she need not be under any apprehensions of Mr. Hardy, for, by what he could gather from his conversation, he was not over fond of his father's scheme.

The next morning, at breakfast, the old gentleman ordered his daughter to dress herself in the new gown he had desired her aunt Severn to procure for her against this occasion; accordingly, she made her appearance in an exceeding handsome short sacque and coat, which he no sooner perceived, than he bid her pull off that fly-flap

flap jacket, for he could not abide the sight of it; "I wonder," continued he, "sister Severn should be such a ninny-hammer, to buy such a fer-brawn thing; she knew well enough I never grudged to pay for your cloaths, and I did not think there was any occasion to pray her to let it be long enough."

The young lady finding he was so displeased with her dress, without making any reply, went immediately and changed it. The good humour with which she behaved in this trivial incident, served to enhance Mr. Manly's opinion of the sweetness of her disposition.

Whilst she was gone, her father continued muttering at Mrs. Severn's folly and covetousness, as he called it, when his visitant informed him, the habit he condemned, was, he imagined, fashionable,

as he had observed it to be very common amongst ladies.

“ Aye, aye,” replied the justice, “ I have seen of them afore now, and ’tis very fit for folks that can’t afford to get a whole gown to their backs; but while I have wherewithal to pay for it, Rose shall have as much in her cloaths as other young gentlewomen.”

He was now employed in stumping about the house, in order, he said, to see if every thing was to rights before Mr. Timothy came; upon whose arrival, the justice ushered the ’squire and him into his great parlour, which was no less spacious an apartment than that in which Mr. Manly slept; and contained a dozen worm-eaten cane chairs, of a sufficient heighth to preserve the floor from being soiled by any feet, that had not the legs of a Potzdam dragoon annexed to them—a pair of virginals

ginals at the upper end, over which hung a broken bass-viol—a large oaken dining table under his own picture, drawn in a full-bottomed wig, and a dressed suit of cloaths embroidered, with a gun in his hand, and a spaniel by his side; his daughter's over the chimney, in a white frock, with a coronet upon her head, and placed in an attitude for dancing, one hand being fixed to her petticoat, in the other a parrot perched, a large piony in her bosom, and a piece of water at her feet.

The 'squire, at his entrance, saluted Miss Moody, then gave Tim a push by the shoulder, and bid him follow his example; upon which, having wiped his mouth with the corner of his handkerchief, he gave her a hearty smack. The justice welcomed them with great formality to the Sullens, and desired them to seat themselves.

It was a considerable time before they could adjust the ceremonials of their situation; at last, all were placed but Tim, who continued walking round the room, and whistling, not seeming to have any inclination to fix, till his father, pointing to the lady, gave him a nod. He then drew a chair, and said to her, "If you please, miss, I'll keep along-side of you." At this, the old gentlemen tipped the wink upon each other. He had not sat by her many minutes, before he threw his arm round her waist, in a very familiar manner, saying, "Mefs! you are as straight as a main-mast, and a good tight little frigate."

She seemed greatly confounded at this freedom, and endeavoured to disengage herself from him, which the 'squire perceiving, said, "I hope, miss, you a'nt offended with Tim, he is an honest lad, tho' he is mine, and don't mean any offence."

"No."



“ No,” added the tar, “ I mean no harm, as father says, I hope you don’t think I’d offer any thing unhandsome; but mayhap, you had rather I should heave off.”

She making no reply to this speech, he rose from his chair, and again traversed the room, whilst the justice gave his daughter many significant frowns, which Mr. Manly observing, endeavoured to turn the conversation, by putting several questions to the sailor, concerning navigation, which amused them till dinner was served up; during which, the ’squire gave Miss Moody many hints that served to heighten her confusion; she retired to another room as soon as she was able, and the father of Mr. Timothy took that opportunity to bestow high commendations on her person and temper, earnestly recommending her to him for a wife; to which the justice added, “ If Mr. Timothy can fancy her, I’ll make her portion more than what his uncle left him.”

Whilst

Whilst the old gentlemen were discoursing on this subject, Tim was employed in filling a pipe, and whistling the Rakes of Marlow; his father, somewhat displeased at this indifference, rebuked him for it, and asked what he had to say to 'Squire Moody's kind offer?

He replied, turning to the justice—  
 “ Thank ye, friend, for the offer of your money, but I ha no need on't at this time; I ha nothing to say against the young gentlewoman; but, as I told father last night, just afore I turned in, I a'nt minded to marry, so what signifies striving against the stream. I can speak to her as well as another man; but if so be she should take a liking to me, she may break her heart, for I am fully set upon another voyage; and if I should court her, and then leave her adrift, mayhap she may grieve; so I think it more fitting for me to let her alone at present.  
 May-

Mayhap, when I come home again, my mind may veer about."

"You tarpawlin whelp!" said the 'squire, have I been at all this trouble to bring about a match for you with a young gentlewoman, that deserves the best 'squire or pensioner in the land, and do you pretend to gain-say it, for no reason but because I am set on't?"

"Avast, avast, father! you take fire too soon; I am my own man, d'ye see, I don't need to come to you for gold at this time; I gave you no bad language; if I am a whelp, I count mother told you I was your son; but though I am your son, I am a free sailer, and not your galley-flave, to be chained to what vessel you see fitting. I a'nt against speaking to the gentlewoman in a civil way; but I would not, for the sake of lucre, say one thing and mean quite the contrary; therefore, 'tis a folly  
to

to bring me to by foul means. I came to see you out of duty, but if so be, you keep putting in your oar about my business, I shall set sail the first fair wind.

Mr. Manly, perceiving the old gentlemen were both choaked with passion, and fearing, if further provoked, they might vent it in indecent rage, invited Mr. Timothy to take a turn with him in the garden.

“With all my heart,” returned the tar, who attended him with his pipe in his mouth, and having taken two or three strides in the grass walk, and puffed a volley of smoke in Mr. Manly’s face, said to him, “I understand, sir, you are a stranger in these parts; mayhap you come in chase of the young woman here; if so be that is the case, don’t let me be your hindrance.”

“Mr.

Mr. Manly smiled at the supposition, but assured him, he had no intentions of that sort; then asked him, why he was so averse from his father's choice; he replied, "As I said afore, I have nothing to say against her; but I never could abide to be put out of my own course, and my father shan't think to steer me; she is very well for such as can like her, but she is no more to compare to some gentlewomen that I have seen, than a fishing-smack to the Eastcourt Indiaman; 'Sflesh! I like a jolly young woman; and I speak my mind to you, because I hope you won't take it amiss; I don't care to squabble with the old man, but if so be he thinks to tow me after all his fancies, I shall break my cable, let him take it as he will; I hope the young woman han't set her mind upon me, for I can't be her man, and I wish you would tell her so, for I don't care to hold much  
dis-

discourse with her, for fear she should think me uncivil."

Mr. Manly said, he might be perfectly easy upon that head, for, to his certain knowledge, her affections were already bestowed upon a very deserving man; and though she suffered his visit purely in obedience to Mr. Moody's injunctions, it was putting a great constraint upon her inclinations.

"I am glad to hear she has got a sweet heart," returned the sailor, "but if her father knew so much, d'ye see, it wa'n't fair play to offer her to me; mayhap, I might have taken a liking to her, and she would have sheered off with the landsman, and proved false hearted to'en."

"Mr. Moody," replied Mr. Manly, "was well acquainted with her inclinations, but has her lover may not be so much



indebted to fortune as you are, endeavoured to turn the bent of them towards you. Yet I know she will think herself under the highest obligation, if you will be so generous as to take the blame upon yourself, since a refusal from her, will only exasperate her father against her."

"Aye," cried the tar, "with all my heart; I don't value his anger a rope's end. I'll tell him 'tis a folly to strive against wind and tide; and let'en know I would not have her if she was as rich laden as an Acapulco ship, and if I loved her as well as I do the mermaids. I'll go to him, and tell'en so to rights, for 'tis a folly to keep the young woman between hawk and buzzard."

Mr. Manly finding him so determined, advised him to decline the affair in as soft and gentle a manner as possible, since it was evident, the justice made him a  
great

great compliment in his offer, and would be amazed at his rejecting it. He then asked him, when he proposed to take another voyage.

He replied, "May-hap in the spring, may-hap not till spring twelve-month, for I have business to do in London concerning the monies and lands as uncle left me. Upon this, Mr. Manly gave him an invitation to dine at his house in town, when his affairs called him there; he thanked him, and replied, "May-hap I may see you, for I must go your way to give a few shells that I brought for a young gentlewoman from her brother, as lives at Fort St. George."

On their return into the parlour, they found the old gentlemen fast asleep in two elbow chairs; however, the noise of their entrance awakened them, and

they resumed the marriage topic, when Tim resolutely refused to comply with their proposition; and, after thanking the justice for his civility, said, “ I would wish you to find her out a mate more fitting for her; for thof I can’t deny but that she is a handsome young woman, she don’t suit my fancy.”

The squire, finding it in vain to pretend any authority over his inclinations, was obliged to resign all pretensions to an alliance with Mr. Moody; and after making several awkward apologies for his son’s ill manners, he departed, leaving the justice excessively mortified at the ill success of his negociation.

As soon as they were out of hearing, he gave vent to his passion, and bestowed the epithets of rogue, rascal, and fool, very liberally on Tim. Mr. Manly endeavour-  
ed

ed to sooth him, by representing the ill consequences which might have attended his daughter's union with a man, who was incapable of discerning her merit, or of making her a suitable companion, and concluded, with congratulating him on her escape.

The old gentleman replied, "What you say, is right enough, he an't good enough for her, an obstinate headstrong puppy! all that disturbs me, is, that I should be such a fool, as to condescend to seek to such an out-of-the-way whelp! and here I have given you the trouble to come after him."

Mr. Manly answered he was far from thinking it any, and should be glad to do him, or Miss Moody, any service; adding, if you would permit me to recommend an husband to her, I will endeavour to find a gentleman of an unexceptionable

tionable character, and one who shall pay the same deference to you as to his natural parents."

"Aye," sir, returned the justice, "that would be a blessed thing indeed! if so be, you could find such a black swan, that is, and provided he should be worth any thing, I should be glad to get rid of her, for I am tired with watching her ways, and I have never joyed myself at the club, or green, since I knew of the pothecary, for fear, when I was out of the way, he should find some contrivance to get at her; they talk of an act of parliament against *predestine* marriages, I wish you could contrive to make such a one, for 'tis a sad torment to be plagued with daughters running away hare-um scare-um with fellows. But for fear you should not be able to bring about such an act, I wish Rose was safe married, and out of harms-way; yet, she is so perverse, she'll never



never be persuaded to take a man I shall like."

"I am in hopes she will," replied Manly, "bring her up to town, and I'll introduce a gentleman to your acquaintance whom I have in my eye."

"Since you say so much," said the justice, "I'll go to sister Severn's in the spring, and I'll carry the girl with me, and then, if you will be so kind as to come to see me, you may find a way to bring her you think on to Hampstead, and may-hap we may make a bargain."

After some further conversation on this and other subjects, Mr. Manly told Mr. Moody, he proposed being in town the next day; the justice used many intreaties to induce him to lengthen his visit; but he assuring him there was an absolute necessity for his return, the old gentleman had no more to say.



All this time, Miss Moody remained in a state of suspense, with regard to Tim's determination, but upon her father's leaving the room after supper, Mr. Manly acquainted her with all that had passed, and received her thanks for the pains he had taken to mitigate his resentment.

After reminding her of her promise, not to engage herself in marriage without the sanction of her father, he told her he had a distant prospect of giving him a more favourable idea of Mr. Lee; however, it was better for her not to indulge too sanguine expectations of that event; but to appear as easy as possible, whilst the old gentleman did not pretend to insist upon a change in her situation, which he was certain he would not at present attempt. She seemed very much dejected, when he informed her of his intention to leave the Sullens, and said, she  
dreaded

dreaded his removal, lest her father should reproach her with Mr. Hardy's behaviour; he assured her, she had no reason to indulge such fears, for he had given him his word never to mention the affair more. With this agreeable intelligence she retired, and passed a more tranquil night than she had known for many months.

Next morning, Mr. Manly bad adieu to the Sullens, after giving the justice and his daughter a pressing invitation to pass some time with him in town.

## CHAP. XX.

*A short History.*

**M**R Manly was met on his return, upon Epping-Forest by one of his servants, who told him he was going to Mr. Moody's to inform him of the death of his old house-keeper. This news affected him extremely, and the more, as he feared some neglect occasioned by his absence might have hastened her end; but upon a strict examination he was convinced, at the first appearance of danger the most speedy and judicious assistance was employed for her recovery, and that no human means were wanting to prolong her life. He paid all possible respect to her memory, and ordered her the same solemnity of funeral pomp, which he had bestowed upon his own mother, and as she had but a trifling sum to bequeath

to a nephew and niece, who were in distress, he generously made them a present of five hundred pounds. And never quitted his house, or saw company, till he had attended her remains, and deposited them by those of her ancestors.

When he had performed the last offices to this good woman, he sent to invite Mr. Lee to spend a day with him, and gave a circumstantial account of the transactions at the Sullens. The lover having poured forth his acknowledgements for this instance of his friendship, spoke the sentiments of his heart without reserve, and renewed his protestations of a sincere and disinterested affection for Miss Moody.

Upon which, Mr. Manly said, if he would engage to treat the justice with the respect due to her father, and overlook his foibles, with all the obstinate opposition he had met with, and leave the dis-

position of the lady's fortune entirely to his option, he would do his utmost to promote an amicable alliance between them. "You must consider, sir," added Manly, "Mr. Moody is an entire stranger to you, and perhaps too much biassed, by the notion of the extensive authority of a parent; yet his rigour must upon reflection, be imputed to a good cause, though the effect is harsh: a careful regard for the future welfare, and provision of a very deserving and only child, I am persuaded, is the motive that has principally influenced his actions against you, rather than personal pique."

"Sir," replied the apothecary, "I should be very undeserving the particular esteem that valuable young lady honours me with, if I was not ready to pay a proper deference to a person, so near and dear to her; I am not only willing to follow your kind advice, but if I should ever be  
so

so happy, as to obtain the dear object of my wishes, I should desire Mr. Moody to settle every shilling he thinks proper to bestow in such a manner, as to put it entirely in her power, and would make it the study of my life to oblige him." Mr. Manly, quite satisfied with these assurances, determined to introduce him to the justice, and to plead for him, when he had an opportunity.

Mr. Lee's practice being very considerable, he could not find leisure for a longer stay with his friend, at that time, but took his leave. And Mr. Manly proceeded to Col. Jeffson's, where he found Miss Murrells fixt much to her satisfaction; her lady treated her in so humane and genteel a manner, that she told him, provided she could be so happy as to continue in that family, she should never indulge a wish to enter into an higher sphere. Mrs. Jeffson professed an equal regard for her, and



and spoke of her in terms of the sincerest affection.

Highly pleased with having procured so agreeable a situation for her, he repaired to Mrs. Hill's, who informed him that Miss Murrells had rejected a very advantageous offer of marriage, from a wealthy linen draper, that had seen her, when she resided with her; she said, as he was a man of character, good sense, and not disagreeable in person, she was a good deal concerned at her refusing his addresses, and wished Mr. Manly would mention the affair to her. To which, he replied, "From your representation of the proposer, I should be inclined to wish such a match could be effected. And if you will favour me with a recital of his condition and circumstances, I should be better enabled to enforce his suit."

His

“ His name,” answered she, “ is Ellet, — he is about five and thirty; and has been in trade for himself these ten years. — He is the son of a worthy divine, who though he had a plentiful income, and was an excellent œconomist, had so numerous a family, that the dividend each child received from him was short of a thousand pounds: Mr. Ellet was the youngest son, and just bound apprentice to an eminent Linnen-Draper, when his father died. His master was an old bachelor, who had not a near relation in the world; a man of strict probity and judgment in his dealings; finding young Ellet very diligent, faithful, and prudent, at the expiration of his servitude, he took him in partner in the trade; and he continuing to behave with the utmost sobriety and gratitude, his benefactor, in a few years, resigned up his whole business to him, furnishing him with money

ney and credit to pursue it to the greatest advantage.

“ The old man perceived, with infinite satisfaction, he had not bestowed his benefaction on a barren soil, and after enjoying the fruits of it, which was returned to him an hundred fold, in the grateful retributions and filial respect paid him by Mr. Ellet, he died three years since, leaving his whole substance to this worthy man; a fortune sufficient to entitle him to an alliance with a woman of a much higher rank. All this I acquainted Miss Murrells with, but could not prevail with her to permit his addresses, which makes me apprehensive, she may have engaged her affections, where there is not so fortunate a prospect.”

At Mr. Manly's return home, he wrote to Mrs. Jesson, and begged her to permit Miss Murrells to meet him at Mrs. Hill's

on the monday, having an affair of some moment to impart to her, in which Mrs. Hill was concerned; at the same time he desired her to acquaint Miss Murrells with his request.

According to this appointment he went on the monday to the milliner's, where he held a long and serious conference with Miss Murrells on the subject that occasioned their interview, the result of which was, a determination on her side to remain in the state she was in. She acknowledged herself greatly obliged for the kind wishes of her friend; and said, she was no less indebted to Mr. Ellet, for his good opinion, and the honour he intended her, but she had no inclination to change her condition; and desired nothing more, than to pass through life in the obscurity and ease she enjoyed from the indulgent friendship of her kind mistress; and she thought it more eligible

bly to retain a certain good, than to run the hazard of parting from it, for the specious appearance of what, if obtained, might not in reality prove so.

Her friends finding her so resolved, ceased to importune her to accept Mr. Ellet, and the discourse turned upon the family in which she resided. Mrs. Hill, who was quite unacquainted with the Col. and his lady, otherwise than by report, said, she had heard great characters of them both; and should be glad to be better known to them.

“ They are,” answered Mr. Manly, “ as worthy a couple, as I know, and I believe, as happy as any in the kingdom; from the long intimacy which has subsisted between the Colonel and myself, I am acquainted with some anecdotes relating to them, which I think will prove that the common assertion,  
on,

on of the heart's being susceptible of a sincere passion, but for one object, erroneous."

This speech induced Mrs. Hill and Miss Murrells to request he would favour them with their history, which he readily related as will be found in the following chapter.

## CHAP.



## C H A P. XXI.

*Colonel Jeffon's History.*

“**T**H E Colonel,” said Mr. Manly, “was the second son of a worthy and wealthy baronet, and designed for the law, for which purpose, after receiving an academical education, he prosecuted his studies at the temple, and was qualified to make a considerable figure at the bar, when his father, Sir Francis died, who left him an estate sufficient to qualify him for a seat in parliament.

“Going into the country to take possession of it, his chaise broke down, near a gentleman’s seat in the village he was passing through, the owner of which being informed by his servants of the accident, came out upon crutches, and finding by the bruises Mr. Jeffon had received

received in the fall, he was not in a condition to prosecute his journey, with great civility invited him to what accommodation his house afforded.

“ The young gentleman, with suitable acknowledgements, accepted this hospitable offer, and was conveyed into an apartment, where a surgeon attended, who gave it as his opinion, that it was not safe for him to remove some time, being apprehensive of an internal hurt, which could not be repaired but by rest. This account was not sufficient to deter his patient from desiring a litter might be procured, and that he might be conveyed to his own family; saying, he did not chuse to be troublesome in one where he was a stranger.

“ The gentleman of the house, no sooner was informed of this, than having made enquiry concerning his guest, of  
his

his servants, he protested he should not run such a risque, telling him, he was extremely glad of an opportunity of paying his respects to a son of the worthy Sir Francis Jefferon. In short, the old gentleman was so pressing, that the young one could not in good manners resist his obliging importunities, and consented to stay, till he was in a better condition to travel.

“ Upon the good gentleman’s quitting the room, Mr. Jefferon demanded of the surgeon his name and quality? and was informed his name was Towring, that he was a major, and had been in the army from his sixteenth year, but had resigned his commission to his son some years, and resided wholly upon his estate in the country; that he was near ninety, and had an only daughter, who being born in his old age, he was passionately fond of, and talked of giving her an handsome fortune, though

as his estate was intailed upon his son and he lived up to the full extent of his income, no body imagined it would be in his power. This lady, the surgeon said, was at present gone to visit a friend some miles distant, but expected home every day.

“ Our traveller was necessitated to keep his bed near a week, and his chamber much longer, in which time he experienced the utmost complaisance from the major, and his servants, who were all very assiduous in their attendance, when he was able to sit up, the major was almost continually in his room, entertaining him with long and circumstantial details of the actions he had engaged in, and by his own account, there never was one of any consequence, from the battle of the Boyne to those of Blenheim and Hochstedt, in which he had not performed wonderful achievements.

“ To

“ To these recitals, his guest gave more attention, than credit; and finding it in vain to shut his ears against the thundering reports of warlike expeditions, with which they were hourly assailed, he often closed his eyes, and by counterfeiting sleep, sometimes escaped a skirmish or seige. This sort of conversation grew at last so tedious, that he resolved as soon as it was possible to remove from it, and before he had obtained the surgeon’s permission, he made an excursion from the chamber, where he had been confined, to the parlour.

“ But this step was attended with an unhappy consequence, for the sight and conversation of Miss Towing, who returned that day, banished all thoughts of a removal at present, and inspired him with different sentiments. She was, as I have heard him affirm, the most charming object he had ever beheld; and, in  
the

the time he staid to perfect his recovery, entirely captivated his heart. He soon informed her of the conquest she had made, and earnestly solicited her hand in marriage. The lady, after a few denials made for form sake, acknowledged she had nothing to object against him, but his profession; declaring if he had been of the military order, she should prefer him to any gentleman who had ever pretended to her. She so frequently harped upon this theme, that he determined, in order to render himself more agreeable to her, to quit the study of the law, for that of arms, and when he left the major's purchased a commission with this in his pocket, he returned to her, she received this proof of his affection, with much seeming satisfaction, and graciously condescended to promise him her hand, as soon as he had the command of a troop, or company, but objected to marrying a subaltern officer.



“ Inspired with the thoughts of obtaining her favour, he was indefatigable in studying and performing the duties of his new employment, she approving him more and more in that capacity, he grew fond of it, and by earnest application, acquired a perfect knowledge in the theory of war. At the expiration of two years, when he commenced captain, he became very importunate with her, to make him happy; her father readily consented, having told him, that he could not part with a fortune during his life, but at his decease he would leave all his personal estate to her; which the captain well knew amounted to little more than his furniture; however, he was so in love with the lady, and had received such endearing assurances of a reciprocal regard from her, that he made not the least objection to the slenderness of her fortune, but offered her as large a jointure as his estate would afford,

ford, requiring nothing in return but her heart and hand.

“Whilst the necessary articles were drawing, he was summoned to attend his corps into Flanders, and Miss Towing insisted on deferring their marriage till his return; in vain did he use the most pathetic intreaties to induce her to permit the performance of the ceremony before he embarked; all he could obtain from her, was a solemn vow of constancy, with a promise to become his wife at the end of the campaign. They parted with mutual regret, and for the first few months, she favoured him with letters by every mail, containing assurances of fidelity, and ardent wishes for his safety; these proved a healing cordial to him, in the dangers which his duty and native magnanimity forced him into; he behaved with great intrepidity at the battle of Dettingen, and came off honoured with scars and applause.

“ On the army’s retiring into winter quarters, he obtained leave to make an excursion into England, where he arrived with all possible expedition; and fraught with the pleasing hope of an endearing reception from the fair one, in compliance with whose desire, he had exposed himself to the dangers attending his profession, he flew to her father’s house, without giving her any previous intelligence of his intentions. He rode post, and never stopt but to change his horses, from the hour he landed, till he reached the major’s seat; where instead of meeting with the welcome his fond heart expected, he was told by a servant, who never asked him to alight, that his master was not at home, being gone a long journey to attend his daughter to her husband’s house. This news put him into a perfect delirium; he asked the fellow twenty questions in a breath, raved at the major, and acted like a man bereaved of his senses.

“ Whilst

Whilst he was exclaiming in this manner, the surgeon, who had attended him, when he met with the accident that introduced him to this family, rode up to the gate, and finding the condition his mind was in, (the cause of which he guessed) begged he would suffer him to wait upon him to the next village, and he would answer all his interrogatories. The appearance and speech of this person brought him a little to himself, and he was prevailed upon to go with him to an inn two miles distance, never opening his lips all the way. Upon his dismounting, the surgeon, perceiving him change countenance, thought proper to bleed him, whilst he made no resistance, but seemed to be in a state of insensibility, which alarming his companion, he caused him to be conveyed into a bed, and sat up with him all night, part of which he slept, and in the morning appeared more calm and composed, when he apologized

to the surgeon for the trouble he had occasioned and returned him thanks for his care.

He then reminded him of the promise he had made, to oblige him with some information concerning the affair that caused his disorder. Upon which the surgeon said, "He was not ignorant of the nature of the engagement between him and Miss Towing; adding, you have at this time, sir, given me a convincing proof of the strength of your passion for that ungrateful lady; and such a one, as a soul immersed in folly and vanity like her's, never could deserve. I am very sensible this disappointment touches you nearly, but think her infidelity and ingratitude must afford reflections of such a nature, as will, in time, induce you to acknowledge you had a fortunate escape." To this the captain replied, he was obliged to him, for endeavouring



ing to lessen his uneasiness, but he was impatient to learn the occasion of her revolt.

“ Meer avarice and ambition,” answered the surgeon.” “ You must know, sir, continued he, about a month ago, Sir Peter Baggold, an old debauched baronet, who has an immense estate, having buried a fine young lady, who had been his wife but four years, and by whom he had no heir, came to visit the major, and before he had been with him two days made love to Miss Towing. His estate and title pleaded so strongly in his favour that he obtained her consent, and in less than a week, she commenced Lady Baggold, and set out immediately with him for his seat. I am credibly informed, the old major remained neuter in the affair, and never attempted to bias her inclinations on either side; and her brother being abroad



cannot be supposed to have influenced her, since he must be still a stranger to her proceedings; so that this act, by which she has rendered herself unworthy of your esteem, and drawn upon her the censure of the honourable part of mankind, appears to have been entirely her own free choice.

“ The captain having obtained this information, dismissed the surgeon with many thanks, and an handsome gratuity for his trouble, and returned with speed to Flanders, where he hoped in the clamour of war, to lose that which the ingratitude of his mistress had caused in his breast. He signalized himself by a remarkable bravery in every action, whilst there, and on his return home, was sent into the north against the rebels, where he was so desperately wounded, that his life was for some time despaired of. A gentleman of fortune and hu-  
manity.

manity, who resided in those parts, received him into his house, and afforded him all the assistance in his power: by the skill of the surgeon, and his care, he once more regained the blessing of health, and joined his regiment, which had orders to remain in the north, after the rebels were defeated.

Mrs. Hill, being called away, by the wife of a button maker, who had entered the shop, and was giving herself airs of importance, refusing to be served by the young woman, one of which she had sent, to bid her mistress come and wait upon her herself, if the woman was not above her business.

We must therefore with Mr. Manly, put a stop to this narration, till that fine lady permitted Mrs. Hill return.

## C H A P. XXII.

*Account of the Colonel's Lady.*

UPON Mrs. Hill's return, Mr. Manly pursued his recital. "Colonel Jeffon," continued he "during his stay in the north, made frequent visits to the gentleman, from whom he had met with such friendly treatment in his illness, and often found there, a lady, whose good sense, and amiable behaviour, seemed to pronounce her qualified to make an agreeable companion and sincere friend; every time he had an opportunity of conversing with her, increased his esteem for her, and gave rise to a passion, which he had long been a stranger to, and which, from the infidelity of Miss Towing, he was unwilling to indulge, lest he should expose himself to the like treatment. However, he saw so much to admire, that he

he could not resist the inclination he had to enquire more particularly after her, of his friend, who, one day, in reply to his questions, gave him her history, which as near as I can remember, from the colonel's relation of it, was, as I shall give it, in the gentleman's own words.

“ She was born and educated in London, where her father, being an Italian merchant in great repute, resided; and having only two daughters, it was supposed would give them large fortunes. The son of a wealthy citizen served an apprenticeship to him, and made his addresses to her from her childhood, with the mutual approbation of their parents, who encouraged the reciprocal affection they with pleasure saw subsisted between them, and only advised them to wait till the young man was fixed in trade for himself, before they married. This the young couple prudently agreed to,

and passed their hours, when together, in forming schemes for their future happiness, and interchanging vows of mutual love and constancy.

“ During this harmonious intercourse, a gentleman of a good character, refined sense, and immense fortune, became acquainted with the young lady, in a visit she made of some weeks to his sister, who had been her school-fellow, and being charmed with her accomplishments and person, made her an offer of marriage; but as soon as he revealed his sentiments, she acquainted him with the engagement of her heart, and declared, no temptation should bribe her to violation of her faith, so pledged; begging him to desist from his visits, lest they should give uneasiness to the man she thought herself bound by honour, as well as inclination, to regard; and thinking a longer continuance with his sister, might  
render

render her more in the way of his importunities than she chose, she left a family which was otherwise extremely agreeable to her. Some time after, this gentleman made his addresses to another lady, who became his wife.

“ At this period, the young merchant lost his father, who left him in the possession of a large share of wealth and credit, and he said, he proposed making his faithful Molly a partaker of it, as soon as his affairs were settled; but while they were adjusting, her father met with such unexpected losses both at home and abroad, as threatened him with bankruptcy, and he died of a broken heart. In his illness, he hourly lamented to his daughters, his inability to provide for them, without injuring his creditors. Upon which, they both begged him to be easy, declaring, they had much rather  
rely



rely upon Providence, and their own industry, for a future maintenance, than acquire it by an act of injustice; and therefore intreated him to make a will, and give orders for the payment of his debts, and that what surplus remained afterwards, might be equally divided between them.

“ The old gentleman complied with their request, and they attended him with an exemplary regard whilst he lived and obeyed his will at his decease, with so scrupulous an exactness, that no person but themselves lost any thing by him; but they, instead of ten thousand pounds a piece, which was the least they had been taught to expect in their father’s prosperity, had now no more than eight hundred pounds between them. However, perfectly satisfied that they had done their duty, they were content with this pittance. But it was far otherwise with Miss Molly’s

Molly's lover, whose soul bore no affinity to her's, and he condemned, instead of applauding, her conduct, which he deemed a carelessness of the goods of fortune, and took occasion to inform her, that, as she had chosen to give away her father's money, and had put it out of her power to bring such a fortune as he could answer, he should remain her friend and well-wisher, but could never think of engaging in marriage with one, who could make no addition to his stock; and therefore, he thought it more prudent to decline her acquaintance, and leave her at liberty to accept any future offer. This intelligence he communicated in a letter, which she received some weeks after her father's funeral, at a time, when she was in hourly expectation of a consolatory visit from him.

“ The agitations this base epistle caused in her mind, can only be imagined by those who have experienced such a case,

case. However, being a woman of good sense, she forbore all violent exclamations against the ungenerous proceedings of the man, who had, for such a term of years, been the constant object of her affections, and chose rather to endure a silent grief, that preyed inwardly on her constitution, than to vent outrageous complaints against the deceiver. She never returned any answer to his letter; but, as soon as their affairs were settled, her sister and she retired into this neighbourhood, where they boarded with a distant relation four years, and behaved with such propriety, as to gain the esteem of every person of sense and condition in the neighbourhood. About a year ago, my brother, who has an easy fortune, married her sister; since which time, she resided with him, and never is the least inquisitive after her deserter; as she has recovered her health and chearfulness, we are in hopes she may yet meet with some happy man, who, sensible of her merit,

may

may endeavour to persuade her to accept of a station more suitable to her deserts.

The captain says, upon hearing this, he made no scruple to confess that he had had an inclination to make his addresses to her for some time, and said, the information he had now received, and the similitude he found there was in their fate, added to his regard for her. He desired his friend to mention the affair to the lady, who, after about six months acquaintance, complied with his request; and has ever since been the most grateful, tender, and affectionate wife: upon his return from the north, he sold out of the regiment he was in, and bought into the guards.

Mrs. Hill and Miss Murrells having thanked Mr. Manly, for obliging them with this history, he bad them adieu, and the latter returned to her mistress.

## C H A P. XXIII.

*Mr. Manly meets with one of his  
fellow Travellers.*

N O T many days after Mr Manly had held the conference with Miss Murrells, relating to Mr. Ellet, he went to Colonel Jeffon's, who happened to be gone out upon business; Mrs. Jeffon hearing he was below, sent to desire his company till the colonel returned, which she said would be some time before dinner. Mr. Manly accepted her invitation, and took that opportunity to impart to her the account he had received of Mr. Ellet's proposals to Miss Murrells, and her determination to remain in their family, rather than accept so advantageous an offer. He related all the conversation that passed at the interview he had with her at Mrs. Hill's; which had such an effect upon Mrs. Jeffon

Jeffon, that she told Mr. Manly, since Miss Murrells preferred a continuance with her, from such grateful motives, she should no longer remain in the capacity she was in, but she would take another person to perform her office, and make her her companion for the future; saying, it was with reluctance she had hitherto employed her as a servant; but now she had received such a proof of her gratitude and worth, she should desire her to remain with her, upon terms more suitable to her birth, and should be glad to introduce her into company, as the daughter of Mr. Murrells.

To this kind speech he replied, " I do not doubt, madam, but you will experience the utmost friendship from her, and meet with such a return as your indulgence merits; but I believe she is not desirous of much acquaintance, and would  
 esteem



esteem herself happy in being known for what she is to you only."

Mrs. Jeffon answered, "I have too great a regard for her ease, to insist on her entering into a way of life that is disagreeable to her inclinations; but she shall no longer be deemed my servant, if she will accept of such a provision as may set her upon a different footing; she is so good an œconomist, that a trifle will supply her with cloaths, and other necessaries, to appear as a gentlewoman; Mr. Jeffon, I am certain, will approve of this scheme, and I shall account to the servants, for the alteration in her station, by informing them of her rank which she had industriously concealed." The colonel at this instant coming into the room, was made acquainted with his lady's sentiments, and expressed great approbation of them; declaring, Miss Murrells should be, from  
that

that day, treated by them as the daughter of a gentleman,

This subject being discussed, Mrs. Jefferson asked him, how he liked the fleet? He replied, with a smile, “ I was sorry to find any land officers in it, however, I have released one, who is to dine with us; I hope, sir, (turning to Mr. Manly) you will not take it ill, if I permit a person from a prison to sit at table with you; he was lately an officer under my command, but being an idle foolish coxcomb, has run himself into scrapes; yet as his faults proceed rather from a weak head, than a bad heart, I am desirous of saving him from ruin if it be possible, and hope, since he has suffered the shame and punishment due to his folly, he may be persuaded, if not to be of use to the world, at least to pass through it inoffensively.”

The colonel was prevented from pursuing his account of the prisoner, by his entrance

trance into the room, and to the no small surprize of Mr. Manly, appeared to be his fellow-traveller Cannon; he had lost a great deal of that ferocity of aspect, which he had assumed in the stage-coach; and was grown very meagre and pale; the moment he perceived Mr. Manly he seemed confused, but that gentleman, compassionating his distress, paid him much more respect than he really thought was his due, or than he would have done, had he met him in more prosperous circumstances. This behaviour had such an effect upon the poor culprit, that the gloom upon his countenance began to vanish, and he regarded the humane Mr. Manly with a degree of veneration.

After dinner, when the ladies had withdrawn, that gentleman asked him where he had been quartered since he saw him? “ Oh, Sir! replied he, I have met with a confounded deal of vexation since I had  
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the honour to travel with you; I dare say you thought me an impudent fellow, for I was upon the high ropes then, but misfortunes have taken me down, and I have been in limbo; yet, as the noble colonel has been so kind to stand my friend, and release me, duce fetch me, if I have not a better guard upon myself for the time to come."

"Pray, said Manly, what occasioned your misfortunes?"

"Consumed folly and pride," answered Cannon, "I see it now myself. But, if you will please to attend to an account of my disappointments, you may perceive I have been more my own enemy than any body's else; for I never committed murder, or robbed upon the high-way."

Mr. Manly replied, "As you are so obliging to offer it, I shall be very attentive

tive to your story." Cannon then acquainted him with those particulars which I reserve for another volume,

END OF THE SECOND VOL.













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